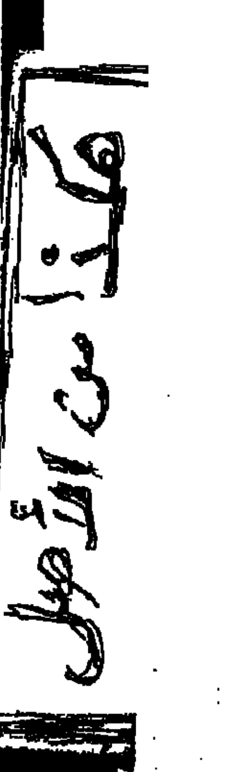
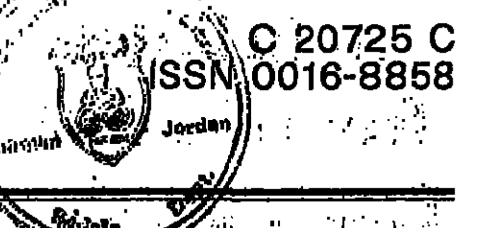


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East, West talk in softer tones at Vienna meeting

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Cordiality was the keynote of most speeches by the 35 European and North American Foreign Ministers at the opening session of the third Helsinki review conference in Vienna.

All have come to realise how valuable the CSCE round is for Europe. There were no signs in the Austrian capital of *fear lest the conference might break* down, as there had been in Belgrade and Madrid.

Even the United States, which reaffirmed its commitment to Europe and promised constructive cooperation yet somehow seemed mentally absent, acknowledged that the Helsinki process had made possible a substantial extension of personal contacts between East *and West.*

The Helsinki Final Act has proved a kind of constitution governing the whole range of European efforts to step up cooperation.

The CSCE, short for Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, has finally emerged as an institution.

Rounds of expert talks agreed at the third review conference, held in Madrid in 1983, have been instrumental in ensuring this status.

They dealt with human rights in Ottawa, with personal contacts in Berne, with the arts in Budapest and with confidence-building measures and disarmament in Stockholm.

Their findings figured substantially at the opening session in Vienna even though binding agreements were only reached in the Swedish capital.

But agreement was reached in Berne too, although the United States chose to stand aside, and important initiatives were launched in both Ottawa and Budapest.

More clearly than ever before representatives of smaller states in both East and West referred to Europe's cultural identity.

There is a growing awareness of living and having to come to terms with each other on a divided continent.

Since Ottawa there have also been signs that the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe are changing their outlook on human rights.

There was no mention at Vienna of a tribunal, with the East Bloc feeling it *was in the dock, as it did at the first Helsinki* review conference in Belgrade.

In Vienna the East Bloc countries forcefully outlined their own definition of human rights as social rights while making it clear that they too are considering a reappraisal of basic rights.

This outcome of cooperation over the past two years is accompanied by views largely converging on the threat to the environment and commitments to fight terrorism.

A wide-ranging potential for future cooperation is already apparent. It includes interest voiced in East and West in intensifying economic cooperation, a point on which Bonn is particularly keen.

With Eastern European approval of the Danish proposal for an expert gathering to *review freedom of information*, an issue on which the East in particular will need to give of its best, the Vienna conference sounds a most encouraging note.

But the superpowers' commitment is an essential prerequisite, as the Stockholm and Berne conferences both demonstrated.

In Stockholm they were instrumental in bringing about a conclusion; the Berne conference ended inconclusively because of a US veto.

The attitude the superpowers adopt toward the CSCE conference will be at least as interesting as the progress of the talks.

Representatives of small and medium-sized European countries in East *and West are for one increasingly* insisting on a say in all-European affairs.

They naturally see the armaments of the two military blocs as all-European affairs, and understanding between the "small fry" both inside and outside the blocs has been greatly boosted by the conference.

This is a fact the superpowers can no longer simply ride over roughshod; they must increasingly bid for the support of the "small fry."

The Soviet Union has certainly taken this point, launching a virtual political offensive at the CSCE to which the United States has yet to provide much in response.

Moscow is deliberately casting itself as a European power, partly, of course, to recommend itself to the Continent as the partner born.

Europe the house of many mansions to which both the German Foreign *Minister, Herr Genscher, and his* French counterpart, M. Raimond, have *referred is a most effective propaganda* formula.

Security through cooperation is not just an empty phrase by which Moscow seeks to paper over the chase to catch up with Western technology or to drive a wedge between Western Europe and North America.

It is also an experience many Western Europeans and neutrals have found to have its positive aspects in recent years.

The United States seems in contrast still to see the CSCE forum more as a sideline of its European policy that is nothing but a burden on its bilateral ties with the Soviet Union and on its alliance policy.

Washington is thus surrendering *ground. This attitude* toward *the* all-European Helsinki forum runs counter to US interests, at least in the long term.

Without US participation the CSCE would sooner or later die, but the Vienna review conference only shows how keenly interested all Europeans are to keep it going on a long-term basis.

Detlef Puhl

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 8 November 1986)



Electoral post-mortems: from left Hartmut Perschau (CDU), Ulla Jelpke (Green/Alternative List) and Klaus von Dohnanyi (SPD) after the Hamburg election. See story below. (Photo: dpa)

No clear winner as Hamburg rejects SPD

The Hamburg *Land* election has left no party strong enough to govern on its own. The Christian Democrats emerged as the single biggest party with 41.9 per cent of the vote compared with 38.6 per cent in 1982. The Social Democrats, who had an absolute majority, fared disastrously, dropping 9.5 percentage points from 51.3 to 41.8. The Greens were up from 6.8 per cent to 10.4 per cent. The Free Democrats improved from 2.6 to 4.8 per cent, but less than the 5 per cent of the poll needed to get back into the assembly (figures might be subject to slight adjustment). Seats in the new assembly (former figures in brackets): CDU 54 (48); SPD 53 (64); GAL 13 (8). Turnout was 78.1 per cent compared with 84 per cent in 1982.

The Social Democrats have taken a canning in Hamburg as well as Bavaria (where last month they polled only 27.7 per cent, their worst performance since the war).

How is Shadow Chancellor Johannes Rau now to persuade his dispirited Social Democrats that he can lead them to an absolute majority in Bonn?

The situation in Hamburg itself is perplexing. Mayor Klaus von Dohnanyi is constitutionally entitled to stay, but not for ever.

He needs a coalition partner but he has ruled out a pact with the Greens. Will he be as good as his word?

In Hesse, the SPD Premier, Holger Börner, also rejected a deal with the Greens. But he bowed to necessity and changed his mind. But if Dohnanyi changes his mind, would the Hamburg

Continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Albania comes in (a little) from the cold

Travel and trade depend so much on transport that the news last August that Albania had finally established a rail link with the rest of Europe sounded as though it might have been from another era.

Yet odd man out Albania has spent over 40 years in self-imposed isolation. Only recently have a few points been set that indicate a diffident but gradual opening to the outside world.

What we know was about the mysterious People's Republic of Albania consists mainly of labels, superlatives. It was, for instance, the first atheist state in the world, consistently closing churches or converting them into gymnasiums.

It was a country that regarded both the "imperialist" United States and the "deviationist" Soviet Union as joint No. 1 enemies.

Albania may well be without equal in that over a third of the Albanian people live not in Albania but in neighbouring Yugoslavia.

Albania has the highest birth rate in Europe and the youngest population, on average age 26.5 years old.

When Enver Hoxha, then the world's longest-serving Communist Party leader, died in April 1985 Eastern Europe lost one of its most scintillating politicians.

His successor Ramiz Alia, 60, who has just held his first party conference as general secretary, has since pursued a cautiously different policy of giving Western Europe the glad eye.

Talks with the Federal Republic of Germany on establishing diplomatic relations have been under way for some time. Tirana is the only European capital where a West German ambassador is not accredited.

In the past the exchange of ambassadors has foundered on Albanian demands for billions in reparation payments for damage done during the occupation of Albania by the Wehrmacht in the Second World War.

Bonn was only prepared to provide generous loan facilities, but that was ruled out by the Albanian constitution, which seeks to ensure that the country's political independence is not jeopardised by foreign loans.

In talks held in Vienna at the beginning of this year the Albanians dropped their reparations demands as a precondition for negotiations; Bonn in return is prepared to invest generously in the Balkan state.

So a compromise formula has been found and diplomatic ties are expected to be established next year.

Visits to Tirana by Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss in 1984 and last May created a furore in this connection.

Herr Strauss was given a warm welcome in the Albanian capital. He mainly had the economic and industrial interests of his native Bavaria in mind.

On both visits he was accompanied by a Munich director of Daimler-Benz, who are to renovate Albania's totally antediluvian motor fleet by supplying 2,000 used Mercedes trucks and 180 buses.

Since the breach with Moscow in the early 1960s and with Peking in the mid-1970s Albania had forfeited its suppliers of vehicles and spare parts.

Mercedes can only hope to do business in heavy goods vehicles. Private cars are banned in Albania.

Tirana is keen to make contact with other European countries too. Diplomatic ties with Spain, for instance, were established at the beginning of September.

After lengthy negotiations agreement has been reached with Greece to end the formal state of war that still exists between the two countries.

Albania is even negotiating terms on which to establish diplomatic ties with Britain, from which Tirana demands the return of Albanian gold that was sequestered after the destruction of British warships by Albanian mines.

Albania has almost cordial ties with Turkey, a Nato country, while Swissair in June became the first Western airline to run a regular service to Tirana.

Ties with the Warsaw Pact states cooled off when Albania resigned from the Warsaw Pact in 1968 but there are even signs of a thaw in their direction, with the GDR leading the pack.

In June a long-term trade agreement was signed by Tirana and East Berlin. The GDR is mainly to support Albanian agriculture by exporting combine harvesters and engines, while Albania is to supply chromium in return.

In August a health agreement, the first Tirana has ever concluded with another country, was signed too. East Germans will soon be able to take cures in Albanian health resorts.

Is this the first step in the direction of government-run tourism?

Economic ties with Italy, which had run smoothly, have in contrast grown chillier. Since December 1985 a family of six Albanian brothers and sisters have been held in the Italian embassy in Tirana, where they sought refuge with a view to forcing the Albanian authorities to let them leave the country.

SONNTAGSBLATT

Tirana seems to fear that issuing exit permits might encourage others to follow suit and insists that the Italian embassy must hand back the would-be emigrés.

Albania is on hostile terms with neighbouring Yugoslavia, where 1.7 million Albanians live.

In the Yugoslav province of Kosovo, where Albanians make up over 80 per cent of the population, Yugoslav Albanians are clamouring for more rights.

Tirana backs their demands and accuses Belgrade of "Greater Serbian chauvinism." Belgrade accuses Tirana of openly laying claim to Yugoslav territory.

It was against this background that work on the rail link between Titograd in Yugoslavia and Shkodra in Albanian made very slow progress. Yugoslavia raised the funds needed for extra diesel locomotives and rolling stock almost at the last minute.

Despite these political differences Yugoslavia remains Albania's main trading partner, although the fierce clashes have slowly made their mark on trade figures.

Between 1981 and 1985 trade between the two countries totalled $541m, or only 75 per cent of the plan target.

Albanian leader Ramiz Alia's family come from Kosovo, which they were forced to leave after the First World War. Against the tense background of

Continued on page 6

Honecker puts out Warsaw Pact feelers in China

The first visit to Peking by a Warsaw Pact leader with the aim of warming party ties with China was rich in gestures.

The state visit by East German leader Erich Honecker, with such an unusual succession of fraternal embraces by Asian standards, presented the Peking leaders with an opportunity of adding new accents to Chinese foreign policy.

So did the 1950s-style language of ideological formulas that seemed long to have been superseded by the process of Chinese reform policy.

China's European policy is gaining the added dimension of an all-European viewpoint from which the German Question, previously seen in isolation, is now subordinated to the wider context.

Chinese Party leader Hu Yaobang outlined the new formula establishing China's opening to Eastern Europe on a firm programmatic basis at the end of Herr Honecker's visit.

He listed three points:

- mutual recognition and respect for the other state's independent process of development and reconstruction;
- respect for its foreign policy, based on and pursued in the light of its own interests;
- and respect in particular for all considerations and specific moves the state in question feels appropriate to promoting ties with China.

China has pondered over these points at length. While the first permits every state its own understanding of socialism and the third indicates that the resumption of party ties, as with East Germany, may simply be considered the continuation of a tradition, the second is more substantial.

Without expressly saying so, Peking respects the special relationship between the Warsaw Pact states and the Soviet Union — while expecting similar respect for its own foreign policy.

Herr Honecker's suggestion that China ought to be ready to discuss Mr Gorbachov's proposals on Asia was rejected in Peking, but that proved no more detrimental to the resumption of bilateral ties than East Germany's support, as a Warsaw Pact state, for Soviet policy on Vietnam.

Peking's European policy has arrived at a pragmatic formula sparing bilateral ties such conflicts of interest and thereby maintaining flexibility toward Eastern Europe.

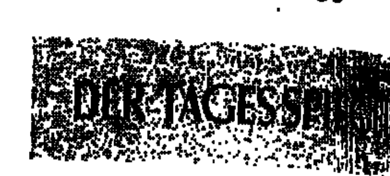
These new outlines also influence China's German policy. The voice of Peking used, until 1982, to be heard as a principled if far-off advocate of German reunification. This can no longer be said to be the case.

The present formula, carefully framed and reappraised by a Foreign Ministry spokesman, adopts a passive position:

"Reunification of the two German states is a matter to be settled by the peoples of both German states, always assuming it is to the benefit of both sides and of peace in Europe and the world at large."

These added provisos are not alone in being new. The both-peoples concept, lending itself to misunderstanding in German, created an unnecessary stir.

It did not mean, as was promptly and prematurely inferred, any change in Chinese views on the German nation.



The Chinese word translated as people, *renmin*, is, as Chinese interlocutors rightly note, a "customary and appropriate" expression.

In China it is, for instance, used in reference to Taiwan (without implying separate-nation status).

The German nation is no longer considered a suitable subject for public debate or pronouncements by Peking. It is subordinated to China's overall view of Europe in which, as Mr Hu told Herr Honecker, China has priorities:

"We earnestly hope that Eastern and Western Europe, including both German states, will intensify their dialogue, relax tension in their relations and extend reciprocal exchanges."

The tight-rope act China has performed since 1982 in its relations with the two German states has taken shape step by step.

It has done so linguistically by the adoption of abbreviated designations of the two states in response to criticism by both Bonn and East Berlin of the terms East and West Germany.

By the same token East Berlin is now referred to simply as Berlin.

It has done so in terms of content inasmuch as Chinese news coverage has studiously avoided commenting on or portraying the division of Germany.

When two concurrent exhibitions in Peking, one from West Berlin, the other from the GDR, inadvertently featured work by virtually the same 19th century painters, the Chinese press chose to ignore the fact.

Such convolutions by the Chinese press so as not to convey to either German state the impression that official Peking policy is directed against the other is admitted by Chinese observers to be a fact.

But they say that not every newspaper article must be taken as representing the official Chinese viewpoint. In foreign affairs that is easier said than done.

Neither East Berlin nor Bonn, and certainly not Peking, shows the slightest interest in making the German Question a political issue in China.

Relations with the Federal Republic are felt to be more cordial and unproblematic than ever. Bonn is not only China's third-largest trading partner; it is also closely linked with China in countless cooperation arrangements in all sectors.

The GDR in contrast, lacking such

Continued on page 5

The German Tribune

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■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Europeans show ambivalence on missiles

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

Just a few days after the Reykjavik summit a story circulating in the Brussels Nato headquarters reflected the helplessness of European governments on the issue of disarmament talks.

Question: what would have been worse than failure in Reykjavik? Answer: success.

Many Nato countries were relieved that Reagan got cold feet at the last moment and refused to budge on SDI, thus preventing agreement (which was within reach) on the scrapping of long- and medium-range missiles.

The Europeans were suddenly panic-stricken at the idea that what, at their own instigation, had become a western negotiation objective might be achieved: the zero option in the field of medium-range weapons.

It was no more than logically consistent for Chancellor Kohl to advise President Reagan not to rush matters in the field of disarmament.

In view of the fact that American-Soviet talks have dragged on for six years without tangible success, this sounds like a bad joke.

Four years ago the US Administration was confronted by mistrust because it did not seem to take the negotiation commitment of the Nato twin-track decision seriously enough and was accused of working towards deployment.

Together with talk of a limitable nuclear war this, in the eyes of sceptics, was proof that the USA was trying to decouple itself from and pass on risks to Europe.

Now that the missiles have returned to the negotiating table the accusation of a decoupling attempt can again be heard.

This raises the question of what the Europeans really want.

Is their response to Reykjavik so apprehensive because they realise that they have neither a common security policy nor a convincing disarmament concept? If so, the response is justified.

So far, however, there is no sign that the shock has been beneficial.

Instead of doing everything which could help remove medium- and short-range weapons the European governments are setting up new obstacles.

Nuclear disarmament alone, we hear from Bonn, Paris and London, is not worth striving for if there is no deterrence at the next-lowest level of defence, i.e. at the conventional level.

Pentagon hardliners are only too keen to take up this line of argument.

One thing should be made clear: Soviet dominance in the conventional field should be discussed.

The removal of nuclear short-range and battlefield weapons should also be discussed.

However, it's no good claiming that Western Europe would be defenceless if the medium-range missiles on both sides were scrapped.

It cannot be denied that disarmament alone is no sufficient safeguard against war.

The gradual elimination of certain types of weapon or the renunciation of the production of new systems is oriented towards a superior objective.

The priority aim is to strengthen strategic stability, i.e. to scrap those weapons which could provoke a first strike and which thus increase the risk of war.

Since the missiles debate of the early 1980s the SS-20s, Pershings and Cruise missiles are known to belong to this category.

Europe, however, even seems to have forgotten this fact.

If there were such a thing as a common security and disarmament concept the Europeans should be doing a lot more in the field of medium-range missiles.

In Moscow Gorbachov must be persuaded that it is meaningless to try to link the problem of European security with Reagan's plans for space-based missile defence (SDI).

Shortly before the Iceland summit the Soviets stated that an interim solution could be found for this category of destabilising weapons.

In other words, whatever Gorbachov tries to include in a negotiating package the Eurostrategic weapons should be excluded.

The removal of these weapons is not only in Western Europe's interest, but also in the interests of the USSR.

During an armed conflict the Soviet SS-20 silos would be one of the main targets.

In Washington Reagan must be persuaded that SDI can no longer be excluded from negotiations.

The American policy in this respect is illogical.

After Reykjavik the White House stated that it was SDI which motivated the Soviets to make such far-reaching proposals on missile reduction in the first place.

In the same statement, however, SDI was referred to as America's insurance policy for the fact that disarmament agreements are observed by the Soviet Union.

It was also emphasised that SDI provides protection against attacks by other nations.

Perhaps SDI was the lever which brought the Soviets back to the negotiating table. But since Reykjavik at the latest it has become clear that Reagan's vision of a "missile-proof America" is preventing the elimination of destabilising weapons here and now.

It is time for the Europeans to unequivocally state their position in this field and put an end to their politics of ambiguity.

The communiqué issued after the NATO conference in Gleneagles is a typical example of the muddled European approach.

On the one hand, Reagan's NATO allies back his stance in Reykjavik (including his refusal to make SDI an issue for negotiations); on the other hand, they demonstratively avoided the expression SDI and worded their statement very much along the lines of demands forwarded by Soviet leader Gorbachov.

The research programme for anti-missile defence systems should be strictly kept within the framework of the ABM treaty.

But what if Reagan only heeds the first part of the message?

What is needed is clarity. This presupposes that the Europeans know what they want.

Wolfgang Schmieg

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 3 November 1986)

Reagan maintains personal popularity despite setback

It was a strange feeling seeing President Reagan, the man who has had some of the century's most triumphant election victories, on the losing side.

This — the Congress election setbacks for the Republicans — was a new experience for a man who exudes an aura of irresistible optimism.

But despite it all, the American nation still holds him in higher esteem than any recent president.

The Democrats, on whom Reagan had inflicted defeat so often in the past, were relieved at the fact that they can now realistically reckon on a political future.

Is this a turning point? The end of the road for the "Reagan revolution" and the associated era of optimism and patriotism?

The significance of the outcome of these elections should not be overrated.

The 100th Congress elections had their own laws and their own specific political mechanisms and motives.

The votes cast by Americans on 4 November were for personalities, not for political parties or ideologies.

President Reagan's name was not on the ballot paper.

One of the first lessons Republicans can learn from this election is that Reagan's political appeal cannot be superimposed on other Republican candidates.

Voters did not buy Reagan's election motto that anyone who wanted to vote for him should vote for Linda Chavez, Ed Zschau and other Republicans.

These were not proxy elections for the President. His political coat-tails are not long enough to pull dozens of candidates to victory.

That became clear two years ago when he achieved one of this century's greatest presidential election triumphs, but was unable to prevent the Democrats from gaining even more seats in the Senate.

The fact that the Reagan era has been so markedly shaped by this man's own personality must be food for thought for the Republican party.

When Reagan makes his exit from the political stage in two years he will take almost irreplaceable personality-oriented assets with him.

Although the Congress election defeat is unlikely to have an adverse effect on Reagan's popularity it will restrict his political manoeuvrability and clout.

The business of day-to-day politics will become more difficult and the pace of his envisaged reforms more moderate.

DIE WELT

He now has an anti-Reagan Senate as well as House of Representatives to cope with.

Both can be expected to place plenty of obstacles in the way of his political plans.

The effects will be felt in the field of foreign policy too.

Congress will exert even more pressure for protectionist measures.

It will be more difficult to obtain money for the SDI programme and the defence concept forwarded by Reagan and Weinberger.

Nevertheless, it would be wrong to regard the outcome of these mid-term elections as the start of fundamental policy changes.

Although policy adjustments may be made the overall thrust will remain the same.

Neither the mandate of this election nor the political temperament and programme of its victors can do more.

The shift in majorities does not mean the Senate will now be run by political muscle men with their sleeves rolled up and ready to settle the score with President Reagan.

Some of its new members are Democrats whose conservatism is comparable with that of the resigned Republican Senator Charles Mathias.

Democratic Senator Sam Nunn, who in his capacity as successor to Barry Goldwater in the Armed Services Committee will be a key figure in America's defence policy, is a level-headed and clear thinker with plenty of expertise.

He is likely to agree with the Reagan Administration on many issues.

All in all, this was an election with no clear signals.

Whereas the Democrats made remarkable Senate gains in the southern states they suffered serious setbacks in the governors' elections in the same states.

Their success in the elections to the House of Representatives also failed to match expectations.

It is an unshakable rule of thumb of American politics, however, that if voters start coming back to the Democrats the movement starts in the South.

Although there were signs of such a trend in this election this was by no means the big trek back to the Democratic camp.

Nevertheless, it is fair to talk of a trend in American politics back to the political centre.

The Reagan Administration is going to have less time and scope for ideology-laden initiatives during the coming two years.

The breathtaking pace of Reagan's first six years in office will slow down appreciably.

Psychologically, a minor miracle took place for the Democrats on 4 November.

They have regained their self-confidence and their belief in the possibility of political victory.

This cannot hide the fact that the most important thing needed for the really big victory is missing: a coherent political programme.

Fritz Wirth

(Die Welt, Bonn, 6 November 1986)

Continued from page 1

SPD follow him? The major parties now have to ensure that the city stays governable. A Grand Coalition of Christian and Social Democrats would be conceivable despite SPD nuclear-shutdown policies.

The alternative would be for Herr Dohnanyi to talk his way through, as he did in 1982, and hold new elections.

The CDU is the largest party. It can have no interest in leaving Hamburg and its wide-ranging problems to the tender mercies of an SPD-Green coalition.

But the Christian Democrats cannot govern on their own either. The Free Democrats, who Mayor Dohnanyi felt he might consider as coalition partners, have gained ground but not enough to get back into the assembly.

Manfred Schell

(Die Welt, Bonn, 10 November 1986)

■ HUMAN RIGHTS

South Africa ban tarnishes Red Cross reputation



The case of South Africa has caused the Red Cross to lose its innocence, scoffed some observers over the goings on at the 25th international conference of the organisation in Geneva.

For them, the expulsion of the South African delegation from the conference on a majority created by the Third World and East Bloc nations is nothing but a continuation of the ever-present battle against apartheid using the Red Cross as a tool.

The case of South Africa is likely to have bitter consequences for the venerable old organisation. This is the first time in its 123-year history that it has been unable to defend itself against the constant threat of political use.

Its independence and, with it, its effectiveness, has broken down in the face of an assault by the political interests of its various political blocs.

Never before has a protest action against the apartheid regime been senseless enough to have a reverse effect from that intended. It has resulted in a breaking of the at least outward unity.

In 1859, a Geneva businessman, Henri Dunant, was a neutral spectator at the Battle of Solferino in Italy and was shocked at seeing the result — some 40,000 lying dead or wounded. He decided to do something to combat the effects of the madness of war.

So emerged the Red Cross Society. (Colliers Encyclopaedia says: Dunant proposed that in every country voluntary aid societies be formed to render aid to the victims of war or peacetime disaster. He asked that the service to the sick and wounded be neutral ... the Geneva Convention of 1864 ... provided for the neutrality of the personnel of the medical services and of civilians who voluntarily assisted them, the humane treatment of the wounded ... The original Geneva Convention ... (was extended to give) protection to victims of warfare at sea (1907); to prisoners of war (1929); ... and to civilians in time of war.)

Out of this emerged the most influential humanitarian movement in history.

There are two sections. One is the International Committee of the Red Cross, to which even today only Swiss citizens can belong. The four Geneva Conventions and both appendices give the International Red Cross — to a certain extent as a humanitarian fire-brigade — a right to help on every battlefield in every part of the world.

The other part are the national Red Cross societies, most of which were founded around the beginning of this century to aid their own nation in emergencies and as social services.

These national organisations also have their international body, the League of Red Cross Societies. Members include one representing Islamic countries.

The league coordinates major aid operations. The result is that there is scarcely a battle anywhere without a Red Cross field hospital somewhere near.

The international missing persons centre in Geneva has the names of hundreds of thousands, both civilians and soldiers, in its computer-controlled files. And 1,200 International Committee representatives operate in the world's various hot-spots.

The League in Geneva can within a few hours use its computer-controlled resources to assemble fleets of aircraft and emergency-aid teams together with supplies of food and technical and medical supplies and dispatch them to any part of the earth.

But that might soon be a thing of the past: the case of South Africa has set a precedent. It has opened the political gates.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) chairman Alexandre Hay: "The movement is under serious threat."

Further political duels would shake the organisation and endanger the unity of the 166 separate member states. Iraq, for example, could object to Iran; the Arabs to Israel; and various West-against-East or vice versa stands could occur.

A taste of the emerging style of the organisation came during this conference (the International Red Cross Conference is normally held every four years. It is attended by representatives of national societies; the International Committee of the Red Cross; the League of Red Cross Societies; and the governments which have signed the Geneva Conventions). The Soviet delegation leader didn't talk about human rights but instead talked stridently about the state of disarmament negotiations.

In addition, the constant danger that national societies could be undermined by their governments has now become, especially in totalitarian countries, more probable.

Already this conference has 12 countries where the head of the government delegation is also the head of the national Red Cross society.

This sort of intertwining of roles naturally makes it easier for powers that have no interest in human rights to shove to one side anything that the Red Cross might otherwise make uncomfortable.

Pretoria was quickly shown the door. That is the beginning. Hundreds of political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela, thousands of refugees and victims of apartheid politics have, at a stroke, been robbed of their last supporting crutch.

It is now probably only a matter of time before South Africa pulls out of the organisation and, in doing so, shuts the door on humanitarian operations.

(Meanwhile, in a retaliatory move, South Africa has told the 15 representatives of the ICRC to leave the country. The national South African Red Cross, which concerns itself with disaster-relief work and the like is not affected — Ed.)

And what Pretoria decides to do, should also not be difficult for other regimes that rely on power to rule.

However, even without this affair, the apparently unblemished record of the Red Cross had shown signs of cracking.

Two independent reports have been scathing about the League's African operations since 1984. The League is responsible for international coordination of disaster-relief.

A University of Sussex (Great Britain) report said that if the League secretariat could not straighten itself out, it would be better for the disaster victims if it allowed other organisations to take over major disaster-relief operations. The organisation, said the report, should forget about irresponsible humanitarian ego trips. "Every incompetent League worker costs lives."

But the ICRC situation is far different. It has built up a superb reputation. Thirty eight delegations, exclusively from Switzerland, try to put their mandate into operation in most of the hot spots of the world.

But the reality is that although countries have ratified the Geneva Conventions, not all of them respect its provisions.

Mr Hay told the conference that use of power still in many cases had priority over discussion.

The Geneva Conventions have, he said, been for the first time, been put to the test in all continents and had been found lamentably wanting.

The human dignity of soldiers, prisoners of war and civilians was being affronted in Afghanistan, in the Gulf, in Kampuchea, in the Western Sahara, Somalia, Ethiopia and Angola.

In Afghanistan, for example: although Kabul had recognised the Geneva Convention and although there was a war involving foreign troops, Moscow had impeded Red Cross delegations.

Iran was behaving much the same. No ICRC member had been allowed to visit the more than 70,000 Iraqi prisoners of war in Iranian camps. Baghdad accuses the Iranians of torturing, brain-washing and murdering its Iraqi prisoners.

However, there is one glimmer of hope. It does seem that the Geneva conference might have paved the *way for an* exchange of prisoners of war between the two sides.

But otherwise, no progress was made. Hay: "In our despair, we asked Iran's most important trading partners, for example West Germany, to intervene. But none were prepared to." *Commercial* interests and state affairs have priority over human rights.

Hopes of doing anything to help political prisoners, torture victims and prisoners of war in dictatorships *seem* as hopeless as ever.

The young black African states have with their imprudent politicisation of the Red Cross, removed a force for their own protection. They were — surprise, surprise — hastily supported by the East Bloc.

The loser by all this is not South Africa but the Red Cross and, in the final reckoning, people.

Marion Lorenz

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 2 November 1986)

Amnesty reports hope despite torture, murder

Increasing pressure on governments throughout the world over human rights has brought results, says amnesty international.

The forces have moved in favour of human rights, says the annual report of the organisation.

But, as always, thousands of prisoners in all parts of the world were being murdered, tortured, maltreated in some way and given unfair trials.

The work of thousands of independent people and groups had helped improve national and international laws protecting human rights.

But at the same time there was a great divide between what governments promised and what they did.

Many governments tried to either justify or hide their abuses of human rights by quoting national sovereignty, security or economic growth.

Amnesty International has more than 500,000 members and 3,600 local groups in 60 countries. It tries to have set free non-violent prisoners who have been arrested for their beliefs or origin.

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of political prisoners in South Africa since the state of emergency was declared. Here, just as in other countries, there are many reports of arrests without trial, of torture, maltreatment and death during imprisonment.

In El Salvador and Guatemala, arbitrary cases of arrest and torture by military and paramilitary units were reported.

In Nicaragua, there had been arrests on political grounds by the government and murder and torture by fighting units from Honduras opposed to the Sandinistas.

There was evidence that this practice of the Contras was encouraged by American help. America comes in for criticism because of the increase in executions.

In Sri Lanka, says the report, hundreds of Tamils who had not been involved in the armed conflict there had been tortured and murdered or had simply disappeared. But Tamil forces had also killed unarmed civilians and prisoners.

From Iran, 470 executions had been reported. In Syria, torture during interrogation was routine. In Iraq, arbitrary arrest, torture and shootings in great numbers were persisting.

From Israel, there were reports of torture and maltreatment of prisoners in the occupied territories.

More than 600 were being held as political prisoners in the Soviet Union according to the evidence, but the real number was thought to be much higher. People were in jail merely for holding beliefs in Poland, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Albania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia.

In Turkey, torture was, "as before", widely practised. Maltreatment was also reported in Spain, Italy, Malta and Ireland. The British government had refused to allow certain details about Northern Ireland to be checked.

Amnesty's main concern in West Germany is treatment of conscientious objectors and accusations about solitary confinement. The cases of four objectors who had vainly sought through a series of court cases to be recognised and allowed to do civilian service instead, had been taken up by amnesty.

There was also concern about the length of time people charged with terrorist offences spent in solitary confinement on remand.

In East Germany, Amnesty report several hundred political prisoners, most because they want to get out of the country. The justice system is criticised for keeping these trials secret.

Amnesty also mentions conscientious objectors who are imprisoned because of their refusal to do military service.

dpa

(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, 15 October 1986)

■ PERSPECTIVE

Meeting looks at Soviet role in international terrorism

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The more serious the terrorist threat to the countries of Western Europe, the more important it is for them to know whether the Soviet Union is on their side or against them.

This problem featured at a Bonn symposium on terrorism as proxy warfare held by the German Strategy Forum and attended by international experts.

The answer depended, they felt, on the region involved. It differed in black Africa and Latin America from what it was in the Middle East, let alone in Europe.

The Soviet Union is constitutionally committed to support so-called liberation movements. It does so mainly in Africa, and with a view to changing the international balance of power.

In Africa Moscow not only wages proxy war, using Cuban troops; it also trains and instructs organisations such as Swapo and the African National Congress in their struggle against South Africa.

They partly wage this struggle by terrorist means, including methods that are particularly appalling.

Soviet commitments in the Middle East, as far as the border between Iran and Afghanistan, are another matter.

At various times enormous quantities of Soviet weapons have been supplied to various states in the region, including countries such as Libya and Syria that are associated with state terrorism.

Palestinian and other terrorist organisations that are allocated their targets by these states have similarly benefited from this Soviet arms largesse.

Moscow has always maintained close links with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Early this year President Reagan noted that two Middle Eastern countries he included in a group of five he accused of being involved in state terrorism — Libya and Iran as it happened, with no mention of Syria, which was equally implicated — were on cordial terms with the Soviet Union.

That, he said, was a point that could not be overlooked in this connection. It would be interesting to know whether the US President still feels this is the case. The Soviet Union showed its arms client Libya scant solidarity when US bombers raided Tripoli and Benghazi in April.

President Gaddafi of Libya was received with no more than measured goodwill in Moscow in autumn 1985 and flew home without the friendship and cooperation treaty he had hoped to sign in the Soviet capital.

This Soviet reticence, noticed everywhere at the time, may have had something to do with the first Soviet diplomats to be taken hostage by Middle Eastern terrorists.

Soviet leaders were more than shocked; it was a key experience for them when, at the end of September 1985, a self-styled Khalid ibn al-Walida Islamic Liberation Organisation not only abducted four Soviet diplomats but promptly killed one of them.

Nothing of the kind had ever happened, and Western terrorism experts tensely and attentively followed the Soviet response, which consisted of three official moves and an unofficial one.

An immediate and substantial reduction in manpower levels at Soviet missions in the crisis area was officially announced.

Pressure was exerted on the Syrian government to help bring about a solution to the case.

There was also a striking change in the tenor and wording of Soviet statements at the UN condemning terrorism, with no further distinction being drawn between "good" and "bad" terrorism.

A further Soviet move was known only to the initiated. Moscow sent out a KGB team who kidnapped and mutilated a relative of the abductors. They were sent parcels containing the kidnap victim's limbs.

That quickly made them change their minds. At the end of October the three surviving Soviet diplomats were unconditionally released.

But the Soviet leaders were not going to forget the message learnt and have since been extremely wary of Shi'ite terrorism in particular.

Iranian fundamentalism had already been suspect and given rise to alarm in *view of the Islamic background of Soviet* Central Asian republics.

Soviet sympathy for state or group terrorism in the Middle East seems since to have plummeted to virtually zero.

In Western Europe the Soviet Union has never been sympathetic toward Basque, Corsican, Italian, French, German, Northern Irish or other brands of terrorism.

The frequent use of Soviet weapons in terrorist raids proves nothing other than that terrorists are subject to market conditions in arms procurement.

They buy weapons from Czech sources just as they buy them from Belgian or Swiss arms dealers or steal them from dealers or ordnance depots.

Explosives are bought mainly from Swedish suppliers — or stolen from quarries.

Soviet suppliers are not involved other than indirectly via the PLO, which has been known to redirect, without authorisation, Soviet arms deliveries to Western European terrorist groups.

Western European groups have also failed to come by financial backing from the Soviet Union or the East Bloc.

They have had to get hold of their funds by means of theft, bank robberies, abduction, blackmail or protection money. In the IRA's case Irish nationalist sympathisers raised funds in the United States.

They would not have resorted to these risky fund-raising methods if they had enjoyed access to safer sources of funds. But they didn't.

Besides, the Soviet leaders see no ideological reason for expecting revolutionary progress to be achieved by European terrorist groups. Their own historical experience with terrorism in old Russia has taught them that nothing comes of it.

Recent experience of the once so vociferous New Left in Western Europe and the so-called peace movement in the Federal Republic of Germany has confirmed this assessment.

The Soviet view is that communist parties loyal to Moscow can alone be relied on to make headway toward revolutionising Western Europe.

Even when they are only minuscule, as in the Federal Republic, they are still seen as useful organisations that justify the finest hopes.

As long as this Soviet view prevails there can be no pointer to Soviet support for terrorism.

The Soviet Union is felt to have had such a faultless track record on Western European terrorism of late that limited Western cooperation with Moscow in fighting terrorism might seem feasible, especially in view of greater Soviet fear of the phenomenon.

A Social Democratic member of the *German Bundestag specifically raised* the idea at the Bonn symposium, and anti-terrorist experts from Britain, Israel and the United States did not dismiss it out of hand.

If it were to come about it would have little in common with the security partnership that Social Democratic leaders constantly advise, blindly and naively, with regard to East-West relations.

US and Soviet officials have already conferred with a view to joint action in cases where both superpowers face a terrorist threat such as the use of nuclear warheads by countries that endorse state terrorism.

At the end of June US Secretary of State George Shultz confirmed that talks of this kind had been held with the Soviet Union for some time.

On the main terrorist front, in the Middle East, the Russians may in certain circumstances be prepared to cooperate, if only to a limited extent, with the West.

Ernst-Otto Maetzke

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 22 October 1986)

Continued from page 2

ties, has a tremendous backlog to make good.

The change in Chinese foreign policy must be seen in a wider context. China's 1960s maxim that rivalry between the two superpowers was growing increasingly intense in Europe has been superseded.

At the time it was seen by China as meaning that a world war was not only inevitable but inevitable in the short term.

In the late 1970s the Soviet Union was seen as the up-and-coming, "more dangerous" of the two superpowers. So China's foreign policymakers sought to enlist the support of allies.

The emphasis is now on economic development. It and Peking's wide-ranging policy of opening the country are based on the assumption that world war can be avoided.

Both Western and Eastern European countries are seen as "forces for peace." Concepts such as detente and disarmament have long ceased to have a negative ring.

Peking is well aware that China is still relatively insignificant economically and militarily, but it self-assuredly casts itself worldwide in the role of a state jealously guarding its independence.

China is allowing itself to be integrated in world affairs.

Johnny Erling

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 5 November 1986)

■ THE TRADE UNIONS

Sale of bank arranged to raise cash

The biggest takeover in the country's banking and insurance business since the war is on the point of going through.

Negotiations are taking place for the sale of the trade-union-owned Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft (BfG) to the fifth-largest insurance group in the Federal Republic of Germany, the Aachener und Münchener Versicherung AG.

BfG is the most successful of the various enterprises owned by trade unions.

The unions need the money from the sale to give to Horst Schiesser, the man to whom they sold the more-than-ailing Neue Heimat property group. They promised him the cash in the terms of the sale to cover various operating costs.

The Frankfurt-based BfG has total assets of DM64bn.

It employs 8,800 and is the 13th-largest West German financial institution.

It has capital resources of about DM1bn, of which 89.5 per cent are held by the trade union holding company Beteiligungsgesellschaft für Gemeinwirtschaft AG (BGAG) in Frankfurt, 10 per cent by the trade-union-owned Volksfürsorge Lebensversicherung AG in Hamburg, and 0.5 per cent by the Bank für Arbeit und Wirtschaft AG in Vienna.

The Aachener und Münchener Versicherungsgruppe (Aachen), with its DM4.7bn in premium income, is the fifth largest West German insurance company.

It offers services to the general public as well as to industry and employs 45,000 free-lance insurance agents.

The fall of trade union enterprises

The DGB and its 17 individual unions own or have large holdings in:
(direct or through holding companies)

BfG Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft
Assets: DM 64bn (End of 1984)
Sixth largest private bank

NEUE HEIMAT
270,000 rented homes (1985)
Largest house-builder

Volksfürsorge
5.8m life-insur. policies worth DM66bn (End of 1985)
Third biggest life-insurance group

BHW - Bausparkasse
49 % DGB-owned
49% Deutscher Beamtenbund
4.03m building loans worth DM163bn (End 1984)
Second largest building society

In West Germany

© Globus

It has 15,000 shareholders including one major British shareholder (20 per cent), the Royal Insurance company.

The bank's own funds are substantial and it can mobilise cash resources worth DM80m at any time. It is estimated to be worth between DM4.5bn and DM5bn.

A controlling interest also means that the new owner will have an insight into the financial strike ability of trade unions, their membership fees and the strike funds deposited at the BfG.

The longer-term surplus deposits of the trade unions, however, are at the BGAG. Only cash funds are deposited at the BfG.

addition, the trade unions probably have deposits in other banks.

The Federal Cartel Office will also have some say in the planned takeover since the Volksfürsorge insuranoe company *holds ten per cent of the BfG's* capital.

The Cartel Office, however, is unlikely to have fundamental reservations, as neither enterprise has a market dominant position.

According to information in the industry newsletter *Platow* the head of the Bundesbank, Karl Otto Pöhl, has welcomed the sale.

The sale is likely to be formally effected when the BGAG's supervisory board convenes in Frankfurt.

Trade union involvment in the banking, insurance and building society business is organised by the Frankfurt-based BGAG.

This umbrella organisation of the majority of cooperative enterprises is under the 100 per cent control of the German trades union confederation DGB and its affiliate unions.

At the end of 1985 the BGAG sold off its 39 per cent share in the co op retail trading group.

The following cooperative enterprises are also controlled by the BGAG: Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft — BfG — (99.5 per cent), Beamtenheimstättenwerk — BHW — (49 per cent), Allgemeines Heimstättenwerk — AHW — (49 per cent), Volksfürsorge — indirectly — (100 per cent), Büchergilde Gutenberg (58 per cent), and the Vermögens-Verwaltungsgesellschaft (38 per cent).

dpa/vwd

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 1 November 1986)

No sympathy for reluctant Neue Heimat witness

The head of the trade union holding company BGAG, Alfons Lappas, has agreed to answer the questions of a Bundestag committee of inquiry investigating the Neue Heimat property group.

This follows his arrest — he was later released — during the national conference of the IG Metall trade union in Hamburg on the grounds of contempt of Parliament.

Why Lappas refused to give evidence remains a mystery. His stand was not popular in any circles and he is now likely to lose his job.

The trades union confederation DGB, and its member unions repeatedly said how unhappy they were.

By trying to go it alone, Lappas has made life even more difficult for the unions, which have being having a hard enough time as it is following the Neue Heimat affair.

There were few sympathetic words of support for him from unionists after his arrest.

Feeling against him is so strong that his dismissal seems inevitable. If this happens, Lappas will have only himself to blame.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 6 November 1986)



Alfons Lappas . . . oh, dear. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Continued from page 2

the Kosovo question this is not necessarily an advantage.

Mr Alia, who has not long held office in succession to Enver Hoxha, who ruled Albania for over 40 years, stands for a cautious opening of his country.

This policy line was endorsed at the ninth congress of the Albanian Labour Party, held in Tirana early in November.

In an impressive 1972 speech to the central committee Mr Alia spoke out against setting up an ideological cordon sanitaire round Albanian youth.

He called for an open clash with alien ideologies.

A country that claims to have established the only true communist society in the world and accuses both Russia and China of treachery is engaged in a cautious quest for ties with the capitalist states.

But Albania seems sure to remain closed to ordinary Western visitors for the time being. Only group tours are permitted.

Ulrike Rudberg

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 9 November 1986)

The trade unions just cannot get off the front pages these days — for the wrong reasons.

No sooner had a parliamentary investigation committee into the trade-union-owned and debt-ridden Neue Heimat property group been set up than the group was sold in a spectacular deal that yielded one mark.

This was followed by the Alfons Lappas scandal. Lappas is the head of the trade union holding company BGAG. He refused to give evidence to the committee and was arrested on contempt charges. He was later released and has changed his mind.

Then comes the sale of the Bank für Gemeinschaft (BfG), in which the unions hold 99.5 per cent of the shares. In economic terms, the sale is a significant, but not a disreputable transaction.

BfG's parent company, BGAG, needs a lot of money to meet its financial commitments to the man who bought Neue Heimat, Horst Schiesser.

The owners of BGAG, the trade unions, are not willing to raise this money in other ways.

So BGAG has no option but to turn its assets into cash.

It is hoped that the sale of its shares in the BfG will fetch about DM2bn.

BfG was urgently in need of an increase in its share capital to the tune of several hundred marks.

Once again, individual trade unions said "Not at our expense!", claiming that

Entrepreneurial days slide into the past

the money was more urgently needed elsewhere.

Both IG Metall, the engineering and metalworkers union, and IG Druck, the printing workers union, are about to engage in what are likely to be tough and costly collective bargaining negotiations on a 35-hour working week.

The decision by the trade unions to sell off their shares in the BfG reveals the more fundamental problem of principles of trade union economics.

The unions orginally set up their business enterprises with the intention of reshaping the economic system or at least acting as a regulatory factor.

The consumer cooperatives, the Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft, the Volksfürsorge insurance group, and the BHW building society were all regarded as self-help institutions designed to help workers in need and act as a countervailing power to private industry.

reality, however, it is not the unions which have reshaped the economy, but the economy which has changed the basic objectives of trade union enterprises.

These enterprises had to face up to the competition of private companies.

If they wish to remain competitive they simply cannot afford to show too much consideration for the special needs and interests of workers.

After competitive pressures became overpowering the unions took the bull by the horns.

They set up an umbrella organisation for their business activities, the BGAG, and fully integrated their companies into the market.

They soon made the same, often more serious, mistakes as their private-industry competitors.

BfG is just as much a part of the extremely fragile international financial system as the other big banks.

Neue Heimat lost more through speculation than all its competitors.

The probably final stage of the "sellout" of the original trade union ideals began with the sale of the 39 per cent of trade union shares in the co op consumer cooperative last year.

The sale of BfG has been necessitated by the need to put Neue Heimat back on its feet. Any investor is welcome as long as he's got money.

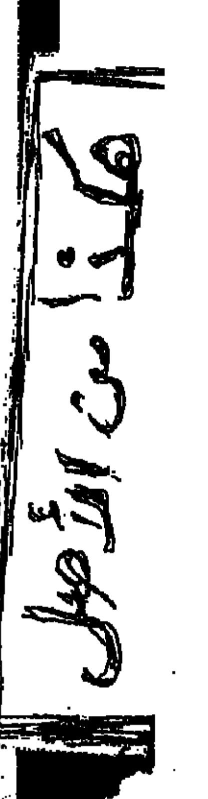
The unions are also likely to sell off their shares in the Volksfürsorge insurance group.

The BHW building society will also be on the list at some stage in the future.

Following the sellout of cooperative ideals the financial sellout is in full swing.

Klaus-Peter Jordan

(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 1 November 1986)



■ SHIPPING

Red carpet treatment for a freighter's last journey

One of Germany's shipping lines, Hamburg-Süd, used to have six freighters on the South American run up until the 1980s. The six were built in the late 1950s and the 1960s and were regarded as extremely elegant examples of marine design. All carried Spanish names (*Cap San Augustin, Cap San Marco, Cap San Diego, Cap San Nicolas, Cap San Lorenzo*) to emphasise the South American connection and all became familar to north Germans. They carried machinery, chemicals and cars on the outward journey and coffee meat, vegetable oil and textiles on the home run. But times changed and the six became uneconomic with the coming of the big container ships. At the beginning of the 1980s, five were sold for scrap and one, the *Cap San Diego* was bought for use in the Far East. Now the *Cap San Diego* has returned. It was greeted by a flotilla of boats, a naval band and by the mayor, Klaus von Dohnanyi, this month when it came up the Elbe to Hamburg where it is to become a floating museum.

The *Cap San Diego* has been bought by the Hamburg Senate at a cost of $1.1m. It is to be restored and opened as a museum in Hamburg's port in 1989, when the city celebrates its 800th anniversary.

More than 200 guests joined the ship in Cuxhaven for her last voyage up the Elbe.

Among them was Professor Caesar Pinnau, who designed interiors and non-structural exteriors of all six ships.

The *Cap San Diego*, 9,859 gross registered tonnes, was built in 1962 by Deutsche Werft in Hamburg (now merged into Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft).

All six were perhaps the most elegant freighters to be built at the time. Professor Pinnau was filled with nostalgia for "the good old days" when these Hamburg-Süd ships were built.

Then owners placed considerable emphasis on the appearance of their ships. Ships such as the six built for Hamburg-Süd, known as "the Swans of the South Atlantic" will never be built again.

These vessels were all given a name beginning with "Cap" (Cap San Diego is at the southern tip of Argentina) and were deployed in a regular liner service from Hamburg to South America up to the early 1980s.

An Hamburg Senate spokesman said that there was no comparable ship to the *Cap San Diego* anywhere in the world today. The profile of freighters had changed enormously since the introduction of containerisation.

In former times cargo was only stowed below deck, which meant that the stern and bridge could be designed for beauty and stream-lined.

Today cargo is stowed in containers that are piled up one on top of another in the ship's hold and even on the upper deck. The main concern in the design plans is stability.

Hamburg's Senate, the city-state's government, heard in good time that the *Cap San Diego*, at the time in South-East Asia operating under the name *Sangia*, was to be scrapped.

The $1.4m purchase price included bringing her back to Europe. Many more thousands of marks will have to be spent on her to make her ready for her début as a museum ship in 1989.

As a museum ship the *Cap San Diego* will be the responsibility of the senator for cultural affairs, Helga Schuchardt. She said that the vessel represents "a slice of Hamburg's history," and that the accommodation in the ship and its equipment should be altered as little as possible in restoration.

The green upholstered furniture in the bar and salon under the bridge has worn well. So have the table coverings in the dinning salon, and the squares on the floors of the eight cabins bearing the Hamburg-Süd monogram.

One of the ships' special features was that they carried a few passengers to and from South America.

The old cargo-handling gear is still in operation and the two-stroke diesel engines remain in running order.

The freighter is an all-welded vessel except in two points where rivets were used, in the stabilisation keel and the connection between the main deck and the forecastle.

The *Cap San Diego's* last berth will be on the north bank of the Elbe, between the St Pauli fishmarket in Hamburg and the Altona fishing port.

When the ship is ready she will have about 6,000 square metres of exhibition space. She will be maintained in a seaworthy condition and when feasible will be used as an advertisement for Hamburg at port and shipping exhibitions and fairs.

It is possible that shipping fans will be able to lease cabins — this will raise a little money to help cover the restoration and rebuilding costs.

Thomas Vinsor Wolgast

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 1 November 1986)



Saved from the scrapheap . . . the Cap San Diego. (Photo: dpa)

Shipyard's royal coup: a queen sails in for king-sized refit

Cunard's cruise liner *Queen Elizabeth II*, better known as the *QE2*, has docked in the Lloyd-Werft in Bremerhaven for a DM312m re-fit that will last 179 days.

The British ship, built 18 years ago, is to be rebuilt to meet the demands of the next century.

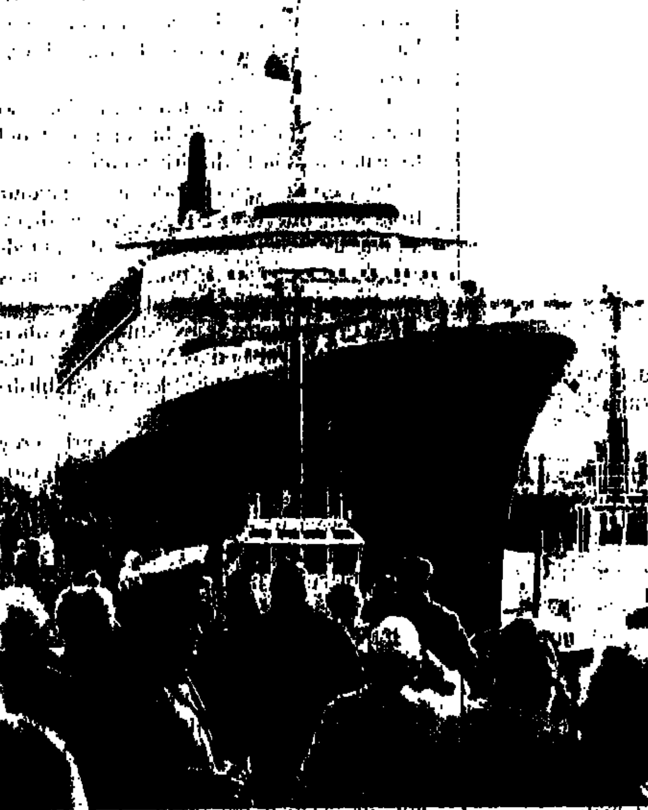
The 67,140 grt *QE2* is the second largest cruise liner in the world. The largest is the 70,202 grt *Norway* (formerly *France*), that is also to be re-fitted by the Bremerhaven shipyard.

The re-building contract that Lloyd-Werft captured in the teeth of intense worldwide competition is the largest ever to be given to a yard by a shipowner.

Lloyd-Werft's advantage was that it not only guaranteed the price but also the completion date.

If the handover is delayed by even one day the yard will have to pay Cunard a penalty of DM1.5m. If the delay is as much as four days the penalty rises to DM4.5m.

Yard boss Eckart Knoth is certain that the penalty clause will not go int effect. He said: "Over the past 12 years we have not had to pay out a single mark in penalties." More than 1,000 Lloyd-Werft personnel will be working on the *QE2*. The contract adds up to 1.7 million work hours. Overtime will have to be worked to keep to schedule, and this has already been cleared with the workers council. To avoid bottlenecks because of a lack of yard workers, another yard, Bremer Vulkan, in Bremen, will from time to time lend workers. Almost two-thirds of the contract involves rebuilding the engines. The two old, high-fuel-consumption steam turbines, each producing 55,000 hp, are to be taken out and replaced by nine diesel engines from MAN (Augsburg), each producing 14,445 hp. They will produce the power for both new electro-propulsion units, each producing 65,000 hp (44,000 kilowatts).



New engines, new accommodation, new everything . . . the QE2 at Bremerhaven! (Photo: dpa)

When the engine room conversions are completed the *QE2* will be the fastest cruise liner in the world with a top speed of 32.2 knots and a service speed of 28.5 knots (almost 53 kilometres an hour).

The *United States*, built in 1952, was just a little faster, but she went out of service in 1969.

One of the world's largest lift-cranes has been brought in from drilling and exploitation platforms in the North Sea to haul the 4,300-ton turbine unit out of the ship. It is estimated that this will take 24 days.

The new diesel engines will cut fuel consumption by a half. This will save Cunard about 250 tons of fuel a day, which over a year adds up to an economy of about DM20m at the present low oil prices.

Considerable investment is to be made in the passenger and service facilities in the liner. Cabins and crew accommodation are to be renovated. The kitchens are to be rebuilt, and the restaurants, bars and public rooms are to be re-designed.

The *QE2* arrived in Bremerhaven from Southampton and while under way across the North Sea work began on the ship.

The vessel has to be handed back to Cunard on 25 April next year. During the summer, as before the re-fit, the *QE2* will be deployed in a regular trans-Atlantic service. She is the last passenger vessel to be operated in a liner service on this route.

Outside the high season the British ship will be deployed in an annual round-the-world cruise and cruises to the Caribbean.

Despite the labour-saving engine-room conversion the *QE2* will continue to operate with a crew of about 1,000.

When the ship is again ready for service the maximum number of passengers that can be carried will be increased from 1,800 to 1,816.

Nine new luxury suites with their own balcony will have been added to the 18 already available in the ship.

D.F. Hertel

(Die Welt, Bonn, 29 October 1986)

■ MOTORING

Outraged reaction to 4mph drivers who save on fuel, tax and insurance

WESTDEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE

Growing numbers of German motorists are taking advantage of a fuel-saving legal loophole that exempts them from road tax and motor insurance.

They drive no faster than six kilometres an hour (less than 4mph). They must first get their vehicle throttled back in a garage so that it's maximum speed is mechanically set. Then a 6kph sign is stuck to both the back and the front of the vehicle. The legislation which allows this was intended for farm vehicles.

There are about 100 of these ultra-slow drivers in Düsseldorf alone and the authorities are annoyed. Walter Vossen of the municipal transport department says they are a hazard likely to cause accidents.

North Rhine-Westphalian Transport Minister Christoph Zöpel has ordered a check to see how many there are.

Ministry spokesman Seltmann says tough measures may be needed. The *Land* might try to get the loophole closed through federal legislation in Bonn.

Herr Zöpel says the 6kph brigade are a provocation, not as an improvement in urban living conditions.

The problem is that they can use all roads (except autobahns) at all hours of the day and night. "They aren't just a traffic obstacle," Herr Vossen says, "they're an accident hazard."

Yet there is no effective legal means of either speeding them up or bringing them to a dead halt. Only vehicles capable of speeds exceeding 6kph are required by the Road Traffic Regulations to be licensed.

Slower vehicles don't have to be licensed. They don't have to take two-yearly roadworthiness tests. They don't cost road tax or insurance. You don't even need a driving licence to drive one!

There were no problems as long as the exception was used solely by the farmers and owners of motor mowers for whom it was intended.

But increasing numbers of buses, trucks and even cars are being throttled to walking pace.

Fitting a 6kph sign to the front and rear of your car isn't enough to qualify for exemption. The engine has to be fitted with a "non-manipulable speed lock," in other words throttled.

Düsseldorf auto mechanics have been happy to meet the demand. The simplest methods are to lock the transmission in first gear, to limit the fuel intake and to remove the accelerator.

Another tried and trusted technique is to reverse the gearbox and limit the fuel intake. Even a Porsche will then not exceed 6kph in a throttled reverse gear.

Josef Westphal, 58, one of the Düsseldorf 100, says this reversal of what motorists have traditionally regarded as desirable — speed — is due mainly to "social hardship."

A Düsseldorf antique dealer who circumvented a driving ban by having his Citroen modified and kept on driving, if only at a top speed of 6kph, was an exception to the rule, Westphal says.

He himself is a design engineer and male nurse who has been a social security claimant for some time. "Most of us," he says, "simply can't afford to pay tax and insurance."

A typical Rhenish joker, he has persuaded a dozen "slowcoaches" to join his "6kph Racing Sport Club." He has the names and addresses of a further 42.

They clearly need to join forces. Impatient conventional motorists have been known to let off steam in more ways than verbal abuse.

"They've slashed my tyres and poured beer into my fuel tank," a rueful Westphal says.

His club's main demand is for motor insurers to fund from their surpluses a free third-party insurance scheme for slowcoaches.

"After all," Westphal says, "we can cause accidents too." He should know, as the owner of four 6kph vehicles.

Neither he nor the others have the slightest intention of abandoning their privilege voluntarily. They refuse to do so on psychological grounds, for one.

"A driving wheel in your hand," says Josef Westphal on behalf of all motorists who can't really afford to run a car, "is the second-best pleasure in a man's life."

Hans-Jürgen Pöschke

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, Essen, 23 October 1986)

Slow Joe Westphal in action. (Photo: Kartenberg)

Pedestrians in night-time danger

Pedestrians may fatally misjudge their visibility at night in the headlights of an oncoming vehicle, says a report published by the Federal Road Research Establishment, Cologne.

Their eyes are adjusted to the dark, so that when vehicle headlights shine they fail to realise how little the driver can see.

They may expect considerate behaviour from someone who has yet to see them, adding a further inequality to the imbalanced relationship between pedestrians and motorists on the road at night.

This point is made by Amos C. Cohen in a report published as No. 47 in a series by the Cologne road research establishment:

A pedestrian dressed in dark grey clothes will not, he says, be seen by a motorist driving with dipped headlights until he is between 65 and 40 metres away.

A pedestrian dressed in black will not be visible until he is between 30 and 10 metres away.

If the headlights are dirty the figures will be even less satisfactory.

So it comes as no surprise to learn, as Cohen also notes, that 23.4 per cent of motorists involved in accidents of this kind said they hadn't seen the pedestrian until after the accident had occurred.

deutscher forschungsdienst

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 3 November 1986)

A probationary licence for beginners

From this month, people who pass their driving test will be given probationary licences instead of the usual licence for life.

This step is being taken in a bid to reduce the number of accidents caused by inexperienced drivers.

After two years, probationary licence holders will receive their licence for life — if they haven't had any endorsements.

Those who blot their copy-books oven once might have to take extra driving lessons.

The local authority that issued the licence will be notified of all traffic offences filed in the national licencing centre in Flensburg in the holder's first two years as a motorist.

The file will be closed and these special records destroyed three years after the licence was issued.

Not all offences will make the motorist liable to lose his licence. The Flensburg registry is only notified of offences that carry a fine of DM80 or over.

They include offences that carry a driving ban and criminal court sentences in connection with a traffic offence.

The deadline is the date on which the offence was committed, although a sentence (or fine) has to be legally valid before remedial measures can be enforced.

New licence-holders who have blotted their copy-books sufficiently to warrant remedial measures may be required to take extra driving lessons or to take a medical test (of their aptitude to hold a driving licence).

In serious cases they will be liable to a driving ban.

Extra driving lessons come in two categories: normal and special (for drink-and-drive offenders). The ADAC says they will cost at least DM250.

Driving lessons will be compulsory after one or two endorsements in the Flensburg registry during the two-year probationary period (depending how serious the offence is).

More frequent offenders may have to retake their driving test. Those who twice fail a retake will be barred from holding a driving licence again.

The same will apply to offenders who fail to turn up for driving lessons or a retake of their driving test.

The authorities can also order offen-

Continued on page 9

■ SPACE RESEARCH

Scientists pick up the bits and pieces after Halley's Comet

Frankfurter Rundschau

Wat is about nine miles long, five miles wide, blacker than coal and shaped like a peanut? The answer is: the core of Halley's Comet, on which half a dozen space probes homed in last March.

Halley was paying the solar system one of its regular, once every 76 years visits. Six unmanned probes, two Soviet, two Japanese, one American and one Western European, took a closer look at it.

The comet was also investigated by over 1,000 professional astronomers all over the world, using the latest terrestrial techniques. They were engaged in probably the largest-ever international research project.

About 500 research scientists met in Heidelberg at the end of October to review the latest findings.

What they were told, in over 250 lectures, was only an interim balance sheet. Many of the comet's vital statistics still await evaluation on computer tapes or print-outs.

Data and photos have so far only partly been evaluated.

The Max Planck Aeronomy Institute's research team headed by Horst Uwe Keller, in charge of the camera on board Giotto, the Western European probe, have for instance spent most of their time so far simply processing photographic material.

The light signals from the comet were only about one third as strong as expected, so exposure times could well have been 10 to 15 times longer, but the camera could not be reset.

So computers had to be put to work to improve the contrast. The camera team seem in many ways to have been the Giotto mission's bad luck brigade.

About 2,100 exposures were relayed, but the camera broke down 14 seconds before the probe passed closest to the comet's core.

Giotto was probably given a nasty jolt by a larger comet particle. Wireless contact with the probe's ground station was interrupted for a while.

There are certainly no photos of the other side of the comet, the side that was almost totally illuminated during the flypast.

Besides, it would have been important to compare photos of the comet taken from various angles. Problems also occurred with the photos taken by the Soviet Vega probes.

Measurements and observation have largely confirmed past assumptions on the comet's size, shape and composition, especially US comet specialist Fred Whipple's comparison of comets, in the early 1950s, with "dirty snowballs."

The closer a comet comes to the Sun on what is usually an elongated orbit, the warmer its surface grows. The chief contents of the "dirty snowball" are vaporised.

They were found to be 80 per cent water, plus carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, methane, ammonia and other substances.

As they are vaporised the deep-frozen gases take occluded dust particles with them.

Initially they can spread evenly in all directions. The gravity of the astral iceberg is far too weak to retain the particles emitted.

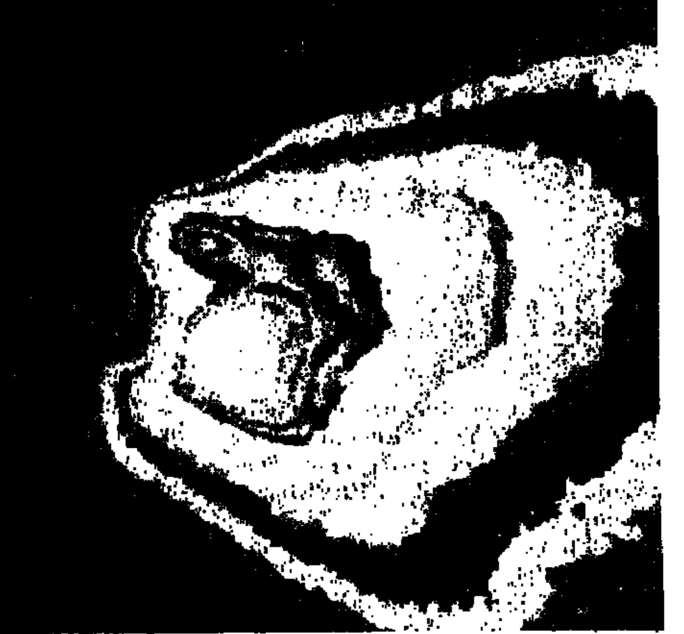
If you were to toss a coin on the surface of Halley's core it would disappear for ever into the cosmic void.

The clouds surrounding the comet extend, accordingly, up to one million kilometres.

Solar ultra-violet light shines on this cloud of neutral gas, smashing molecules or wresting electrons from them.

A mixture of unattached electrons and what is left of atoms and molecules gradually takes shape. It is a mixture known as plasma that interacts with the solar wind.

This interaction causes massive electromagnetic atmospherics on a far larger scale than that of the much larger Earth's magnetosphere. The surface of the comet's core is evidently blacker than coal. Few asteroids reflect less light. One consequence of this blackness is that Halley absorbs large amounts of sunlight and is heated as a result. That is why it is covered by a rough crust maybe several metres thick.



A Giotto view of Halley's core . . . smashing molecules, wrestling electrons. (Photo: AP)

This crust protects the ice and frozen gas inside the core from the glaring heat of the Sun. If it didn't exist the comet would emit much more dust and gas than it does.

Gigantic fountains of dust and gas are emitted through holes in the crust. This matter accounts for what is seen from Earth as the comet's tail.

Only about 30 per cent of the side directly lit by the Sun was found to be really active during the flypast.

Visible fountains of dust evidently consist of many smaller jets emitted in much the same way as water from a shower attachment can flow in a single stream rather than in individual jets.

There is a plausible explanation for the way in which the protective skin surrounding the comet took shape too.

For most of its 76-year orbit Halley is far away from the warm Sun. There is no evaporation and the core is subject only to cosmic radiation.

This radiation is strong enough to smash and condense the original, lightweight surface material, finally reducing it to the state in which it functions as a heat shield when the need arises.

The large amount of amorphous carbon, probably accounting for the core's deep black colour, tallies with this process.

A number of details have been identified on the surface of the comet's core. They include the tip of a small mountain about two kilometres long and one kilometre wide.

Numerous craters between 500m and 1km in diameter can be seen. But they are neither volcanic craters nor craters caused by the direct-hit impact of, say, an asteroid.

They are circular hollows or indentations that seem to contain smaller craters. One of the last photos relayed back to Earth shows a part of the comet's surface, including one of these crater-like cavities about 700 metres in diameter.

The Max Planck research scientists don't know whether the camera on board Giotto is still in working order. They tried to aim it at Jupiter but failed.

"We couldn't make out Jupiter," says Keller, "but we can't say for sure whether the direction-finder or the camera was out of order."

Esa, the European Space Agency, is shortly to decide whether to reactivate Giotto for a further trial run in September 1987.

The probe's trajectory has been adjusted to bring it within 22,000km (15,000 miles) of the Earth on 2 July 1990, five years to the day after launching.

The Earth's gravitational pull could be used to redirect the probe to fly past another comet two years later, but much depends on whether the camera is in working order.

Evaluation of Halley data will still take some time, but comet researchers already have their next move in mind.

The Max Planck Nuclear Physics Institute in Heidelberg, which supplied both Giotto and the Soviet Vega probes with comet dust analysis equipment, is to design and construct a device for an American comet probe.

The US probe, code-named Craf, short for Comet Rendezvous Asteroid Flyby, is to be launched in 1992 and fly alongside a comet for three years.

Esa even plans to launch a probe of its own in the late 1990s to collect samples of comet and bring them back to Earth.

Wolfgang Brauer

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 1 November 1986)

Continued from page 8

ders to take a medical test — and will invariably do so when they have grounds for suspecting that the offender is not suited (or only partly suited) to hold a licence.

Probationary licences are only issued for first-time Class 1a and 1b (motorcycle), 2 (heavy goods vehicle) and 3 (car) licences.

The time motorists have held (non-probationary) class 4 or 5 (moped) licences will not count toward their two-year probationary period for Class 1, 2 or 3 licences.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 October 1986)

■ LITERATURE

Author's belief that reality can be forged out of dreams

DIE ZEIT

Dagmar Chidolue has been given this year's Youth Literature Prize, the 30th, for her novel *Lady Punk*, awarded by the Family Affairs Ministry in Bonn.

She lives in Neu-Anspruch, near Frankfurt. The name conjures up a rustic idyll with farms and old-fashioned gardens.

But Neu-Anspruch is quite different. It is a village grown large with a shopping precinct, a sports centre, a school complex and a tennis club opposite a children's playground.

Behind the playground there is a row of new terraced houses. Dagmar Chidolue lives in one of them with her husband and two daughters.

She looks exactly like the pictures of her in her books. She is almost always shown smiling, a little shy perhaps, but definitely a gentle person.

I imagined she was like one of the heroines in her books, who are not at all like heroines. Her characters are well-behaved girls living well-ordered lives. Outwardly all is correct, but many desires remain unfulfilled.

They are ordinary girls, who want to break away from their suffocating parental homes. *They want to get out of the rut* they see themselves in and, to a small extent, they want to try and make their own way in life.

The character Gabriele in *Fieber* published in 1979, or Hannah in *Das Fleisch im Bauch der Katze* (1980), or Kiki in *Aber ich werde alles anders machen* (1981) or Gerti in *Ein Jahr und immer* of 1983 are all like this.

Dagmar Chidolue admits that her first two books for teenage girls were autobiographical. "Gabriele and Hannah are like me and see the world as I see it, only the situations are different," she said.

Anyone who has gone through the traditional girl's roles, suffered through them, cannot fail to feel just a litle anger mixed with sorrow about these teenagers with clipped wings, who make life difficult for themselves.

Teenagers try to solve their problems in clichés. They feel they should never draw attention to themselves; just do what the others do.

Dagmar Chidolue's teenage girls desperately try to get out of their narrow confines, and not always in the most sophisticated way.

That rings true. Dagmar Chidolue was born towards the end of the war and grew up in Westphalia during the Economic Miracle. She was trained to work in an income tax office. Later she took her university entrance examination and studied law. That is all very respectable.

There is the terraced house with the little garden, protected from the outside by a high wooden fence. There is the cosy living room.

There are the files in which correspondence with her publishers is filed away neatly and tidily, and the cheerful desk at which she works regularly and in a disciplined manner.

She writes her five pages each day, mainly in the evening and at the weekends, when the children have things to do.

But then there is the other Dagmar Chidolue, spontaneous and professional, who talks animatedly and with delight about her work. The Dagmar Chidolue who is married to an African but never gives a thought to adding her maiden-name to her foreign married name.

She was involved in the student movement at Frankfurt University at the end of the 1960s and moved over from law to political science, because she wanted to change things.

She wanted to become an actress because she enjoyed dressing up. With the same sense of conviction she has written about a secretary who was under stress and a punk rocker.

Terry, in her prize-winning novel *Lady Punk, is Lady Punk, an enfant terrible*, who basically just loves herself. She has plenty of money and prefers to spend it on a narcistic parody of herself.

She vents her fury, her delight, or other feelings as *El Canario, Queen of American Heaven* or *Virgin of fruit and iron*.

In a book for teenage girls written in the 1950s she would have been either "wicked" or "neglected," who, by substitute parents, could be converted into a "good girl."

Today conflicts do not have to be resolved at any price, reality no longer has



Author of well-ordered lives . . . Dagmar Chidolue. (Photo: Alexa Gelberg)

to be sacrificed to what is educationally good for you.

Terry has to cope alone as always. Her hatred of her mother remains unchanged and her energies are not directed into more positive channels. But she is strong enough to struggle to her feet after her disappointments.

One day she will be able to get to grips with things. The book gets no nearer to a solution than that, which is what makes it so credible.

The Youth Literature Prize jury in Munich said that *Lady Punk* linked novels about teenage girls to the main stream of modern literature for young adults.

Long before teenager book publishers began to pay court to young readers at the beginning of the 1980s Dagmar Chidolue was writing without any specific target groups in mind. Her first book, *Das Maisfeld*, was a creative retreat from frustration with her law studies. It describes in adult language the daily routine and the feelings of a small boy. It was a good book and it gave her confidence. It was printed and re-printed, but only after six years of rejection slips from various publishers. Unlike Anglo-American literature, so much admired by Dagmar Chidolue, German publishers will not accept a book with a child in the leading part as purporting to be a book for adults.

But her books were not appropriate for children's book publishers either. Her work fell between two stools.

This all changed when she got to know of the new publishing house, Beltz und Gelberg of Weinheim, publishers unafraid of experimenting. She sent her manuscript to them.

Hans-Joachim Gelberg replied two days later. Gelberg, who has a talent for spotting talent, was interested in her work.

He had already attracted book illustrator Janosch to his newly-founded publishing house, which also publishes popular illustrated books for adults.

In the 1970s he encouraged Peter Härtling to write children's books. Gelberg was awarded the children's book prize for Härtling's imaginative anthology *Geh und spiel mit dem Riesen* in 1972.

Gelberg has never been convinced there should be dividing lines between books for children, adolescents and adults. In 1975 he started publising books for teenagers and adults. It was under this imprint that *Das Maisfeld* eventually appeared.

Since then Dagmar Chidolue has had no trouble placing her manuscripts. Her initial handicap of writing books with an appeal to teenagers and young adults has turned into a success story.

Two of her books have appeared in the Fischer Verlag series of paperbacks, "Women in society."

She seems to have achieved what she set out to do. She said: "The thing I like doing most is writing, apart from sleeping and eating." This charming remark goes well with my image of the gentle, adaptable Dagmar Chidolue.

But I also got to know her other side, a mixture of enthusiasm and toughness, without which she would never have been able to stand the distance to her ultimate success.

She has a stubborn and persistent belief that reality can be created from dreams.

This passage occurs in *Das Maisfeld*: "You always have to imagine that one day everything will be different. That helps because you know that it will come true."

Dorothea Keuler

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 24 October 1986)



Günter Grass and wife in Calcutta . . . 'No foreigner, not even Günter Grass, can really understand Calcutta' - Bengali journalist. (Photo: teutopress)

Günter Grass revisits Calcutta

Günter Grass and his wife Ute plan to live in Calcutta for a year, close to the city's slums. Has he fled from Germany? Does he intend writing a book about Calcutta?

These questions are asked in Calcutta when there is mention of Grass's proposed twelve-month stay in the city on the Ganges.

Spokesmen from the West German consulate-general and the Max Müller Bhavan, as the Goethe Institutes are known in India, say: "Herr Grass does not want to be disturbed." They do not give his address.

Günter Grass and wife Ute have for the time being moved out of Calcutta to a small house with a garden, about 20 kilometres from the city to the suth, in one of the less crowded Calcutta suburbs.

Here the upper classes live, but not in the style of maharajahs. For Grass and his wife it is not a flight into luxury.

They eat Indian food and live like Indians, with just a few extras that cost a lot or which are only available to diplomats. It seems to be what Günter Grass is looking for.

He went to Calcutta from Bombay last August. Calcutta is unique in the world for its way of living and dying. But Grass is mainly interested in getting to know the people. He keeps his distance from fellow Germans living in Calcutta.

He goes to dinner with the consul-general, visits the head of the Max Müller Bhavan a couple of times, and will probably play a few games of skat (a German card game) with Consul-General Soenksen and a few friends, but these are the only contacts he plans to have with his fellow countrymen in Calcutta.

Grass takes getting to know the city and its people seriously. He says that the Bengalis are "an unusual people quite unlike other Indians."

Every other day at least he goes with his wife into the city by a crowded suburban train, gets into a taxi and drives round a city district, he pushes his way with the rest through the streets, talks with Indian intellectuals, poets, politicians and businessmen in the coffee houses.

He told an Indian women journalist

Continued on page 11

■ FILMS

Gatecrashers or guests? East Germans at Nordic festival

Kieler Nachrichten

East Germany took part for the first time in this year's Nordic Film Festival, the 28th, in Lübeck.

The occasion is traditionally a Scandinavian affair, and it is not clear if the East Germans will come again or if their presence this time was welcomed by all.

Including East Germans, then, there are now seven countries involved in the festival. The others are West Germany, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Denmark and Sweden.

The East Germans brought four films. There was room for them because a retrospective devoted to films by Swedish-German painter and poet Peter Weiss was small and not all the slots were filled.

The East German visit was made possible through the recent signing of the East German-West German cultural agreement.

So, what about next year? East German officials replied ambivalently with "possibly" and "why not?"

The Scandinavian countries regard the Nordic Film Festival as theirs. For them it is a convivial family get-together.

Nevertheless it was interesting to see what Kurt Maetzig, an important director who made *Ehe im Schatten*, and who is a professor at the film and television college in Babelsberg, near Potsdam, brought with him. There are few opportunities to see what East German studios are producing.

It was astonishing to see with what devotion Hermann Zschoche told the romantic Friedrich Hölderlin love-story in his *Hälfte des Lebens*.

The film tells of the poet's unhappy love for Susette Gontard, the wife of his employer in Frankfurt. He worked with the Gontard family as a tutor but was dismissed by his jealous employer. He went to Switzerland and Bordeaux, returning home to Tübingen in 1802 mentally and physically ill.

Just like scenes from a West German television portrait of a poet, Zschoche touchingly films wild roses and lovely swans recalling famous Hölderlin poems, and equally he shows the desperate lovers in swathes of fog sinking down into the damp grass.

There were two other astonishingly fresh productions from East Berlin. Peter Kahane showed brisk wit in *Ete und Ali*, two young lads, who make a living using considerable cunning after they are demobilised from the East German Army.

Then in *Eine sonderbare Liebe* Lothar Warnecke tells the story of two people well-advanced in age who discover a great love for each other.

The comedy of everyday life has a place in these two films and there is a touch of kitchen-sink realism and irony in both.

East German film-makers no longer have room for the old ideology that society is all-important and the individual counts for nothing. Each strives for his own private happiness.

Two new West German productions that Heinz Badewitz showed at his Hof Festival provided socially relevant themes at Lübeck.

Although Josef Rödl's *Der wilde Clown* included a few passing shots at the great political ally the USA, it mainly told an absurd comic-anarchistic story about love and freedom, abandoning itself to a great cinema dream.

Gottfried Junker in *Versteckte Liebe* dealt with an unusual holiday episode.

The Norwegian contribution, *X* by Oddvar Einarson, attracted attention. The critics' jury awarded this film Lübeck's William Heinesen Prize.

In his film Einarson concentrates on a tart, who keeps coming into the life of a young photographer. She disappears, comes back to him, then disappears again.

His photography, music and actors are exactly suited to the story he has to tell.

Sweden was represented by three weighty but effective contributions.

In *Die Brüder Mozart* Suzanne Osten tries to follow up the trend for opera films. Her comedy about a director who wants to stage an unusual production of *Don Giovanni* is full of ludicrous details and out-dated generalities.

Lars Norén's pscho-thriller *Dämonen* was originally a stage-play. Carsten Brandt's film version is very trendy and sophisticated but not as gripping as it was on the stage.

Amorosa was awarded the Lübeck Film Festival Prize. It was made by Mai Zetterling and tells the story of the writer Agnes von Krusenstjerna. It went about the analysis of her lachrymose and voluptuous story, that ends distressingly, in a rather tepid manner. From Finland came a re-make of the war-history epic *Der unbekannte Soldat* by Rauni Mollberg.

Jaakko Pakkasvirta's film version of Kafka's *The Castle* was garrulous.

Iceland sent a pschological study by Hilmar Oddsson, entitled *Das Tier*, similar in theme to the first Danish contribution, Erik Clausen's *Der Mann hinterm Mond*.

Analysis of a lachrymose story. A scene from *Amorosa*, prize winner at Lübeck. (Photo: NFL)

The second Danish film, *Valhalla* by Peter Madsen, poked fun at the world of the German gods, reducing them to comic strip characters. It was a cheerful mixture between Hägar and Asterix.

The search for love in a world that has become very rational was again the main theme of many Scandinavian productions.

There were many variations of this theme in the films for children and young people. The title of the Swedish film by Kay Pollak indicated this trend clearly, *Liebe mich* (Love me).

The visitor to the Lübeck Festival needed to approach the subject of the retrospective, Swedish-German painter-poet Peter Weiss, with a sense of admiration.

Having got over the urge to bend the knee in homage, the visitor who took a criticial look at his work would realise that he is remembered more as a painter than as a man of the theatre.

His films drift between surrealism and expressionism. His only full-length film, *Fata Morgana*, is out-dated with its pathetic symbolism. His documentaries have more substance to them and are the work of a craftsman.

The retrospective showed that there was no need to re-assess his place in cinema history.

There were few films at the Nordic Film Festival that were socially critical in content.

The only politically explosive film was Peter Torbiörnsson's *Grenzen*, spectacularly filmed in Nicaragua and St Salvador. It was clumsily placed in the programme at the same time as a discussion on the chances for survival of national film industries.

The Lübeck organisers were unable to say if other film projects dealing with alternative, social criticism were in the pipe-line in Scandinavia.

The films shown at the Festival did not give an overall view of the Scandinavian film scene. The visitor to the Festival was directed to various publications from the film institute to fill in the gaps. The organisers themselves were unable to provide comprehensive information about Scandinavian films.

The Festival programme was also not very well produced and did not include either biographical details or synopses of the films being shown.

The artistic management of the Festival will have to do more to make Nordic films better know. What is needed is not a wider range of films, but consideration of those shown in greater depth.

Christoph Munk

(Kieler Nachrichten, 4 November 1986)

Continued from page 10

what he had found out about the "special people of Calcutta."

He said: "They are good-natured but they get angry at the slightest provocation. Bengalis are real egoists. They are very proud of their rich culture."

The only complaint he has made so far about Bengali behaviour, true also for the rest of India, concerns his experience with public transport: "Why do people all try to get on and off a train at the same time?"

He said: "I have to push my wife in front of me into the compartment so as to be sure that we are both on the same train."

Why is Grass in Calcutta for the second time? He visited the city ten years ago. His friends say he is fleeing from German narrow-mindedness, the slanted view of his book *The Female Rat* and German politics.

Grass himself said: "I have never seen so many teeming millions of people. People with such a mixed culture. Poor, but intelligent people with a sense for art."

The city has had two Nobel prize winners, Mother Theresa in 1983 and the poet Rabindranath Tagore in 1913.

Grass has been reading 19th century Bengali literature in English translations. He said: "That is helping me to write a novel about an average inhabitant of Calcutta and the teeming masses." To write this book he wants to see and get to know Calcutta.

He testily told a young German at one of his readings in Bombay, who wanted to know about his accommodation in Calcutta, that it was not vital to live for a year in the slums to be able to describe them. "Do you want me to describe my bathroom?" he asked.

"It is not necesary that I should do so. You don't have to learn to be an hairdresser to say something about cutting hair."

He continued: "I shall not disregard the slums, but I don't see why I should live in one." He said that he and his wife would live in conditions that they could bear and which provided them with what they need.

His writing and politics follow him around even in India.

He has given two readings of his works so far. In one there was considerable discussion of his statement that, "The world nourishes the Apocolypse, not as we imagine it from the Bible, not as an act of God but man-made."

Grass says that the enormous advances made in electronics and computer technology has "hindered humanity from developing in new directions."

He said: "Snails move faster than people, human beings don't move any more."

There are things in India that never change either, according to Grass. He warns of a new fascism in the world, "not in Germany but perhaps in the United States. It will be unlike the fascism we know in Europe. It will be something like racism, in the black-white terms that Reagan favours so much."

Grass has certainly also found during his year there that in Calcutta there is "an imitation of German society with its vulgar materialism and its emphasis on performance."

Will Grass be "a new Grass" when he returns to West Germany?

"Certainly not," said a prominent Indian journalist who knows Grass well.

The journalist added, however: "But he will certainly have a greater knowledge and understanding of India and Indians."

With Bengali self-assurance he continued: "But no foreigner can really understand we Bengalis and the city of Calcutta — not even Günter Grass."

Peter Dienemann

(Die Welt, Bonn, 23 October 1986)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Earth's 'hothouse effect' likely to have catastrophic results, warns scientist

The phenomenon known as the hothouse effect is the most serious environmental problem mankind faces, a leading German authority on climate says.

Professor Hermann Flohn told a conference that temperatures are rising long-term. Climate experts reckoned mean temperatures would increase by between one and seven degrees by the year 2030.

The consequences of this effect would be catastrophic for billions of people, Professor Flohn told a Protestant Church Academy conference at Loccum, near Hanover.

Changes in air and water circulation systems would create the most serious problems, with heavy rainfall in previously arid zones and drought in temperate ones.

A foretaste of what meteorologists, atmospheric chemists and geoscientists see as a realistic catastrophic scenario occurred a few years ago in the eastern Pacific.

Current changes that went by the name of El Niño (The Kid) hit the headlines, with drought in the jungles of Borneo and torrential rainfall on a number of Pacific islands.

Months of drought in Borneo led to forest fires in which tens of thousands of square kilometres of jungle were razed. Pacific islanders in contrast were awash

Bremer Nachrichten

in torrential downpours 10 times the level to which they were accustomed.

Strange to say, thermometers have yet to clearly indicate the change, but industrial executives and politicians at the Loccum conference faced scientists sure of their facts.

Their measurements, data and analyses are based on observation of carbon dioxide, steam and 40 atmospheric trace gases from readings of which inferences can be drawn on climate trends.

These substances trigger what is known as the hothouse effect.

We all know it is warmer inside a hothouse, and under glass, than outside. Glass lets in the normal sunlight we can see.

Soil and plants in the hothouse convert sunlight into heat that cannot escape through the glass. Energy converted from light into heat is retained.

Atmospheric substances have an effect similar to that of panes of glass in a greenhouse.

Carbon dioxide makes up only 0.034 per cent of the atmosphere, but climatologists say it is the most important substance where the trend they forecast is concerned.

It accounts for half the hothouse effect. The other half is due to methane, laughing gas, ozone and spraycan gas, all of which are on the increase in the atmosphere.

Spraycan gas in particular is increasing at a rate of five per cent a year.

Professor Klaus Hasselmann, director of the Max Planck Meteorology Institute, told the conference how the carbon dioxide count in the air we breathed had steadily increased over the past two centuries due to the combustion of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas.

The atmospheric carbon dioxide count, he said, had increased by 25 per cent since 1780. A man-made substance had spread worldwide and increased in quantity by a quarter in a mere 200 years.

Even if man's hydrocarbon consumption continues at the present rate, Professor Hasselmann says (and nearly all meteorologists agree), the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is sure to increase.

It would even continue to increase if hydrocarbon — i.e. fossil fuel — consumption were to be halved.

So in 50 to 200 years mankind will face between one and a half and four times the present carbon dioxide count, and every time the amount doubles the mean temperature will increase by between two and four degrees centigrade.

These are the facts as scientists now see them. But details for an exact forecast of the effect they may have on climate trends are extremely difficult to collate.

Professor Hasselmann mentioned the inclusion of cloud formation in forecasts as an example of the difficulties that beset forecasters. A four-per-cent increase in cloud would have the same effect as a 100-per-cent increase in the carbon dioxide count.

Meteorologist Dr Christoph Brühl of the Max Planck Chemistry Institute in Mainz had included in his calculations 100 chemical reactions by 34 different substances, the conference was told.

The best and most up-to-date computers were needed to handle the enormous amount of relevant data, Professor Hasselmann said. The Hamburg research group led the world by virtue of access to the most advanced computer of its kind.

Catalogue of demands

One drawback of previous models was shortly to be eliminated. Atmospheric and oceanic facts and figures used to be compiled separately. They are now to be combined in a joint scenario.

Better models will enable politicians to react suitably to the climatological challenge. Scientists submitted to representatives of all four Bundestag parties at Loccum a comprehensive catalogue of demands.

Prompt action was badly needed as the hothouse effect progressed and the atmosphere grew hotter. The sooner action was taken, the more tolerable the level to which consequences could be kept.

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(Bremer Nachrichten, 30 October 1986)

Big variations in concern about pollution

People who are more concerned with consumption and material prosperity regard environmental pollution as a far less serious personal threat than idealists, says a survey.

People who regarded life in West Germany as pleasant had fewer complaints about the environment than those who thought life was less pleasant.

The survey, by Munich market research specialist Werner Hagstotz and Münster University political scientist Walther Kösters, found that there was a far greater concern about pollution that affected people personally than general pollution which had no immediate personal effect.

The researchers say this is a bad sign for environmental policies. They say people who are worried about pollution in general but who see no immediate personal threat are unlikely to pay serious attention to ecological problems.

Three thousand people were questioned in the survey, which was financed by the DFG scientific research associations asked dealt with environmental pollution in general and the extent to which people felt personally affected by pollution.

Writing in *Politische Vierteljahresschrift*, the political quarterly, Hagstotz and Kösters say traffic noise and vehicle exhaust fumes were regarded as serious personal pollution burden by 27 per cent; 45 per cent saw them as a serious burden on the (impersonal) environment in general.

The pollution factor that most upset people outside their personal horizons was industrial effluent pumped into rivers and waterways. Fifty-one per cent said this was a serious hazard.

People who are directly confronted with environmental pollution were found in 97 per cent of cases to feel the problem was serious.

But a mere one in three respondents who felt a specific form of pollution was extremely serious in general terms also regarded it as a serious personal burden.

The great majority (95 per cent) of those who felt the environment in general was not too dirty said there was no personal threat from environmental pollution.

The survey's findings clearly indicated how strongly perceived environmental pollution is coloured by individual ideological outlook.

Respondents' views on personal environmental pollution were compared with objective regional pollution levels and with individual values.

Objective local pollution was found to have a strictly limited effect on subjective perception, with respondents' complaints of being personally affected increasing by five per cent at most.

The influence of personal views and values on perceived pollution was much greater.

People whose basic outlook was geared more to consumption and prosperity felt environmental pollution was a far less serious personal problem than those who set greater store by personal development and ideal values.

People with an interest in politics tended to take a more crushing view of their immediate environment. People who felt life in the Federal Republic

Continued on page 13

Fruit machines seem a fairly harmless way of passing the time, feeding small change to a one-armed bandit on the off chance of winning a fistful of silver. But it can become a mania, with addiction leading to debt and maybe crime. The only clinic in the Federal Republic that treats chronic gamblers is in Münzesheim, near Karlsruhe.

■ ADDICTIONS

Hospital treats compulsive fruit-machine gamblers

The man in the blue tracksuit, a 44-year-old bricklayer, looks more like he might be in his mid-50s.

He was once an alcoholic but was hospitalised and cured of drink 10 years ago. But he still has problems. He is a compulsive fruit machine addict.

Given the chance he would drive out to the nearest all-night autobahn service station to feed the one-armed bandits because he simply can't wait for the nearest bar with a fruit machine to open.

He has fed a small fortune to the machines, and once his own money ran out he began borrowing.

In full-page magazine adverts fruit machine manufacturers make them out to be one of life's minor pleasures, a trivial and harmless pursuit. For some they are a nightmare.

He hasn't been near one for six weeks. Not because he has got over the craze. He hasn't — despite frequent bids to break with the habit. "The machines," he says, "were always stronger."

For six weeks he has been a patient at the Münzesheim clinic, one of three run by the Heidelberg Protestant Church mission and the only one in the country treating compulsive gamblers.

The clinic was opened in 1973. It is a modern complex in the countryside, midway between Heidelberg and Karlsruhe. Most patients are either alcoholics or drug addicts.

Yet the sad atmosphere of the classical cold turkey clinic is conspicuous by its absence. The complex looks more like a sanatorium for overworked company executives.

The buildings are pleasantly arranged. Sports facilities range from an indoor swimming pool to a bodybuilding centre. There is a small zoo and even a Japanese garden with a pond, waterfall and tea house.

The impression created is deceptive. In comparison with other treatment centres Münzesheim has a particularly difficult patient structure.

Physcally and mentally handicapped addicts, blind and vagabond patients whose combined difficulties cannot be handled elsewhere are treated.

So are gamblers, of whom clinic director Jürgen Schwarz says: "I always planned to steer clear of them."

But he was one day confronted with the sufferings of a young gambler, the son of a variety artist who regularly performed at the clinic, an intelligent young man with university entrance qualifications who shared his father's aptitude for music.

He began to work the fruit machines as a 15-year-old. By the time he was 18 he played them virtually every day, losing first DM100 a week, then DM300, then DM1,000 and, by the time he was 25, over DM1,500 a week.

At 28 he had DM25,000 in debts. He joined a gamblers anonymous group and succeeded in steering clear of the fruit machine parlours for four months.

Then he fell back into his old ways, arguably worse than ever. Now a social security claimant, he spent six hours a day at the machines, working three at a time.

He increasingly lost control of himself, smashing the glass when the machine failed to pay out the jackpot, which was frequently the case.

In the end he turned to crime, first stealing from his father, then from others. He was jailed for three months and, on his last appearance in court, given a suspended sentence providing he sought medical assistance.

But where was he to find it? Schwarz asked around, but fellow-doctors had no idea where he could be treated either. So he was taken in at Münzesheim.

Dr Schwarz, a former forensic expert, has as his motto the slogan: "There is no such thing as a problem; only a task."

He decided to take on this particular task even though he didn't see compulsive gambling as an addiction in medical terms.

Schwarz, 53, is strongly in favour of a pragmatic approach to therapy and takes a dim view of the trend to classify anything and everything as an illness.

He feels it is a trend detrimental to the freedom of the individual. He doesn't even see his patients as addicts. He just sees them as they are.

In the case of the artist's son, at 33, the patient's condition was catastrophic. He was a bundle of nerves, a mental and physical wreck, despairing and on the point of suicide.

"The first thing we did," Schwarz recalls, "was to buy him new clothes."

Over a dozen patients of this kind have since undergone treatment in Münzesheim, and that isn't many when you bear in mind that the number of compulsive gamblers in the Federal Republic is felt to be about half a million.

Schwarz says the reason is straightforward. It is that very few gamblers feel they are indeed of treatment.

It takes a mountain of debts — up to DM150,000 — to exert the pressure required for patients to accept the need for treatment.

In this respect there is little to choose between the gambler and the alcoholic, and the aim of therapy is the same: breaking with the habit for life.

"The gambler must come to realise," Schwarz says, "that he can never again go into a bar with a fruit machine on the wall." Otherwise he is sure to have a relapse sooner or later.

So great importance is attached in Münzesheim to how the mania originated. In individual weekly session a psychologist tries to sound out how it all began.

Scenes are acted out and group discussions held to help make the machines seem less attractive. On a more down-to-earth note, patients are also given advice on how to handle the debts they have amassed.

The aim of treatment is otherwise to offset the loss felt by junkies, alcoholics or gamblers who are on the waggon by

DIE WELT

helping them to develop their capacities to the full, as Schwarz puts it.

They undergo occupational therapy in the hospital printing shop, the mechanics workshop or the gardens. They do pottery, painting, woodcarving and cooking. They go in for sport and music or even study for school-leaving exams they have failed in the past.

Münzesheim has pioneered treatment in many respects, including the unsolved problem of who was to pay for the treatment.

The 44-year-old bricklayer's treatment is being bankrolled by the health insurance scheme because he might otherwise revert to alcohol.

The artist's son is being treated at the expense of the social security department because he is an acute potential suicide.

He has since had a relapse. He is one of the 50 per cent of gamblers who fail, as Dr Schwarz sees it, to stay clean after five to six months of treatment.

Harald Günter

(Die Welt, Bonn, 25 October 1986)

Continued from page 12

was, by and large, extremely pleasant had fewer environmental complaints than those who held the opposite view.

At one end of the spectrum a group of people who set great store by consumption and prosperity, show little interest in politics and are extremely satisfied with the lives they lead were found, irrespective of objective pollution, to feel only 39 per cent personally affected by environmental pollution.

Given a comparable objective pollution level, 67 per cent of a group at the other end of the spectrum, a group favouring self-development and setting great store by ideal values, keenly interested in politics and not very satisfied with the way they live, were found to be critical of pollution as they felt it personally affected them.

All told, personal views on individual environmental pollution weighed nine times more heavily on respondents' assessments of environmental pollution in general than the objective level of measurable pollution.

These findings, Hagstotz and Kösters say, augur ill for consistent environmental policies requiring personal sacrifices. People who are worried about pollution in general but see no immediate personal burden are unlikely to pay serious attention to ecological problems.

There would seem to be little likelihood of persuading much of the population to pay more than lip service to environmental protection.

Yet as pollution objectively increased in most environmental categories there might conceivably be a corresponding increase in the feeling of being personally affected.

Rolf Degen

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 30 October 1986)

Children who become adults too soon

Drug addicts' children are old before their time. They create a striking impression of adulthood even as small children.

They are serious and quiet and have often had to learn as tiny tots to take care of brothers and sisters even younger.

Little attention has been paid to them. When their parents undergo treatment they are usually sent to a children's home — without special treatment.

Now there are three centres — in Berlin, in Frankfurt and in Bornheim, near Bonn — specialising in treatment of drug addicts' children.

"They are victims, affected by their parents' addiction no less than their parents are," says educationalist and psychologist Dieter Ebbinghaus, who runs the Phoenix Centre in Bornheim.

"They need specific assistance, just like their parents do, to enable them to cope with their later lives."

The Phoenix movement was formed in New York in the late 1970s by ex-addicts to help others.

Work was based on the realisation that only people who have been through much the same trouble really know what addicts' problems are.

Staff at the six German Phoenix centres are psychologists, social workers and doctors who are all themselves former addicts.

At Bornheim, a former feudal mansion, individual therapy was found, after a year's work, to be not enough to solve family problems. So couples and their children were admitted.

At present they include 10 children, from babies to 10-year-olds, who live in a special *Kinderhaus*, or children's house, in an outhouse of the mansion.

There is also a kindergarten staffed by four women teachers. Children of school age go to the local primary school.

"What we want," Ebbinghaus says, "is to end the vicious circle of addicts' children trying to solve their problems by means of drugs or alcohol and themselves becoming addicts."

Family therapy takes between a year and 18 months. In the initial stage children and parents are housed separately.

Later, when the parents have regained sufficient stability to take on the responsibility of parenthood, they move back together.

"Most children have never known what it is to play," says Carolin Bauman. "We have had four-year-olds who practically ran their homes, assuming full adult responsibility."

What happens when the treatment is over and children have to leave the atmosphere of peace, quiet, balance and help?

"They find it very hard," she says. "They have to say goodbye to their new friends and classmates. But we do try to make sure that families don't return to their old haunts.

"Many take educational courses while they are here for treatment. Some are referred to self-help and further care facilities.

"Personal stabilisation of parents and children also helps them to handle the new situation."

Treatment makes a point of preparing them to cope better with life "outside." Other shortfalls in maturity are also treated.

No figures are available on the number who relapse. But one group has been checked three years after release.

Twenty per cent had reverted to drugs, 60 per cent stayed clean and the remainder were not traced.

Sigrid Latka-Jöhring

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 30 October 1986)

■ HORIZONS

Women meet to talk about building a fairer world

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Frauenland (Women's Country) was the utopian vision on which representatives of over 400 women's projects conferred in Essen.

Progress already made or envisaged in the line of "self-determined work" was to be outlined at the congress of autonomous women's organisations.

It was entitled Women's Projects, Women's Power, Women's Country.

Representatives of over 400 women's projects ranging from bookshops and advice and therapy centres, from educational and holiday homes, from media and art stores to refuges for battered women came from Munich and Kiel and from Berlin and the Rhine to Essen in the Ruhr.

There they conferred in a disused colliery that has been converted into a local arts centre. Women from archives and bars, cafes and publishing houses, travel agencies, drug addiction advice bureaus and self-defence training centres discussed their dream of a "women's country" where there would be an end to the conventional socialisation of women.

There would be an end to prejudice about women being the weaker sex.

Women from research and sport projects were in Essen; so were women from magic and astro-projects. "There simply can't be enough of us," the invitation said, naturally extending a heartfelt welcome to women representing prostitutes' groups.

The list of groups represented made it clear what a wide and striking range of self-administered women's projects has come about since the first refuges offered battered women protection from the claims to domination of violent husbands and partners.

Yet autonomous women feel the range does not extend anywhere near as far as they would like to see it do.

Activities are still strongly concentrated on education, welfare, arts and leisure. The arts were all well and good, but crafts and trades were under-represented.

Power and influence were unlikely to result from projects such as holiday homes or clubs for teenage girls, especially as most of them relied on government-subsidised jobs to keep overheads down to a level they could afford.

The trouble with government subsidies was that they tended to alienate women's projects from their political objectives.

One of the most important points made at the two-day Essen congress, with its exhibition and gig, was that many political appeals to throw open trade and technical jobs to girls lacked credibility.

Girls were occasionally hired as apprentice joiners or fitters but seldom employed as journeywomen let alone given a chance to qualify as master-craftswomen.

Autonomous women saw no alternative to setting up women's firms in traditionally male trades and subsidising them to enable young journeywomen to qualify as master-craftswomen.

Realistic demands such as these were interspersed with wilder imaginings. The flame of enthusiasm that accompanied the war cry "Half the World for us Women" blazed only for a minority, albeit a very active one.

That may have been why there was no outcry from coxcombs excluded from the proceedings. The gig was a women-only affair, with music played by all-female big bands, and only children were allowed to attend proceedings irrespective of their sex.

The tenor of the congress was a far cry from the "prevailing wave of equal rights, equal opportunities, partnership and the like" — and intentionally so. Autonomous, feminist and Lesbian women converged on Essen with no desire for integration.

What they wanted was autonomy. "When public mention is made nowadays of promoting women, of women's politics and women's research, less and less attention seems to be paid to what really benefits women; strengthening our autonomy and identity rather than merely making us conform and adjust."

The latest views of the Catholic Church, published as a collection of essays by Duncker & Humblot, left the Essen conference and information centre women cold.

Representatives of the women's emergency switchboard, the women's health centre and the girls' drug addiction advice bureau were equally unable to befriend themselves with the words of the Bishop of Hildesheim.

In his presentation of the essays he referred to the fact that women were entitled to equal human dignity and equal human rights as a truth of which we were newly aware.

In "Women's Country" there was an appraisal of how much women's power existed so far, power being necessary against the background of genetic manipulation, test-tube babies, environmental pollution, nuclear weapons and Star Wars.

"How much power do we have to set against all this?" the women's groups asked in Essen. The question clearly mattered; the answer was not yet available.

A self-critical note was interwoven in the "fantasy of Women's Country," with autonomous women admitting that they still knew too little about engineering, fuel and power, artisan trades, research, water resources, sewage, architecture and gentle technology.

What could happen — and how it could all go wrong — was illustrated by a project in Oregon, where US women had bought a patch of land and declared it to be women's country.

"Many women visitors came, including many from abroad, but none wanted to put in much work and next to none had any real know-how.

"So most women besieged the area, living off the project women's supplies and answering the calls of nature in the surrounding woods. Could that be described as women at one with nature?"

The German dream of a *Frauenland* was entirely different. The Women's Network women called on women to "live with nature rather against it, and with abilities and know-how, structures and forms that we miss in patriarchal society."

At the Essen congress this target seemed most nearly to be reached by the country women who were said to have spontaneously established a network to collate information on women with special abilities and jobs available for women trainees in agriculture.

In other respects the network idea, which had been one of the major objectives of the congress, fell by the wayside.

A countrywide organisation comprising all women's projects was realised to be impracticable. Networks might be possible at state level, but cooperation was more realistic within cities.

Fritz Mörschbach

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 28 October 1986)

When the taxi becomes the passenger's confessional

Lübecker Nachrichten

How should passengers behave in a taxi? Should they say something? Or keep quiet? Does talk distract the driver? Or is silence impolite?

The question has been the subject of a study by a student of politics and philosophy in Mainz, Peer Günther. It was a subject that he slid into easily: he has been driving a taxi for several years, mostly at night, to support himself during his studies.

Over several months, Günther together with 13 colleagues studied the behaviour of more than 300 taxi passengers round the clock.

Most decided to keep quiet. In more than half the cases studied, the passenger only spoke when giving the destination and again only when leaving the car.

Only in every 20th case did a conversation take place initiated by the driver.

Günther says this shows that drivers, particularly those working at night and on long shifts, prefer to be left in peace. They are generally bored by what passengers have to say.

Most passenger conversation centres round what they intend to do at the destination, local events, experiences in pubs or the quality of the weather. Amazingly, passengers often talk about things personal.

Günther found that on every shift there were one or two people who did not want to get out at their destination but wanted instead to talk on about their problems.

Drivers heard about marriage problems, housing problems, work problems. He found that for some of these people, the taxi was something like a confessional: personal contact in a restricted space for a short time and with complete anonymity.

Concrete assistance was not asked for. But practical hints are passed on. He mentions, for example, the Wiesbaden taxi driver who warned a priest against going to a swimming pool one day because it was the day for nude swimming.

Brigitte Klempt

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 28 September 1986)

The family in crisis as an institution

The family as an institution is suffering from serious wear and tear, says sociologist Dieter Claessens of the Free University, Berlin.

His was the inaugural lecture of a series on Welfare and Educational Work in the Family held by the school of social work and social paedagogics.

Statistics bear out Professor Claessens' claim. Only eight million of the 26 million households in the Federal Republic of Germany are families in the accepted sense of the term.

Reviewing structural changes in the family, he said the key features of the conventional turn-of-the-century family had been an extremely open-minded approach to the allocation of roles to husband and wife and a substantial readiness to commit oneself to the family.

Roles were then reallocated during the First World War, with women doing men's work — largely because the men were away at war.

Women began to campaign for a role in public affairs. Veteran communist and women's libber Clara Zetkin had been a case in point.

Women had continued to come into their own at work and in bridging up children during the Second World War.

The conflicts that had arisen gradually came to the fore in the post-war period when families were reunited. "Women," said Professor Claessens, "had to take arms against the men's claim to play the leading role."

By the late 1950s the younger generation was beginning to come into its own. Dogmatic statements of all kinds were increasingly rejected.

Educational opportunities improved, and with them women's ability to voice their views. The upshot was even greater misunderstanding between the generations.

Institutions, including the family, steadily declined in importance. Ties were increasingly avoided. In short, conditions grew increasingly unclear and the concept of the family increasingly vague.

Was the family today such a lasting institution as sociologists used to claim? Or had it grown old-fashioned and outmoded?

Given high divorce rates, violence in the family and the large numbers of single parents one was bound to wonder whether it still retained its role.

Professor Jürgen Dittberner, state secretary to the Senator for Youth and Family Affairs, stressed how important it was to retain the family concept. It was merely a more varied concept than it used to be.

He felt it was not for the state to discriminate against specific forms of the family or to encourage others. The aim of a liberal family policy must be to encourage all forms of the family.

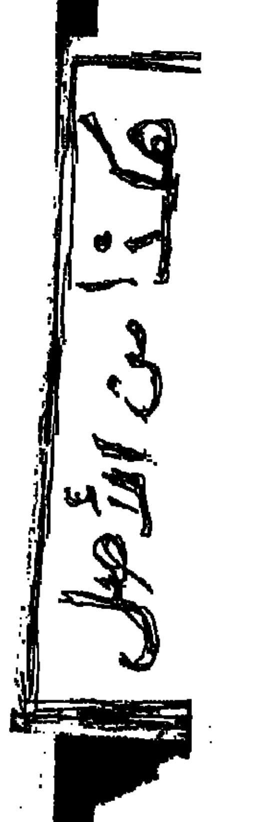
Yet commitment to helping the family was often made more difficult by staff shortages and financial constraints.

In the ensuing debate doubts were raised as to the efficacy of existing family assistance programmes.

The Federal government's family policy was said, despite Professor Dittberner's comments, to make moral inroads into the family by lending fiscal encouragement to certain forms of family life.

Critics wondered how far family policy and social work had dealt with "structural change in the family" and whether they were taking the uncertainty that existed in the family seriously enough.

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 31 October 1986)



■ SOCIETY

Small miracle at Kevelaer: the story of a pilgrimage

Hundreds of thousands of people make a pilgrimage every year, particularly in October, the traditional month for the veneration of the Virgin Mary. Kevelaer, north-west of the Ruhr close to the Dutch frontier, is one of Germany's most famous pilgrimage shrines, second only to Germany's oldest, in Altötting, Bavaria. Is pilgrimage an out-dated manifestation of faith? A closer look at Kevelaer by Christian Geyer in *Die Welt* casts some light on the question.

At the entrance to the *Kerzenkapelle* (Candle Chapel) in Kevelaer pilgrims are invited to file their petitions to the Virgin Mary in a special ring file, kept in the chapel for this purpose.

More than 500,000 people make a pilgrimage to Kevelaer annually. They can also pray for the petitions that are included in the ring file.

The prayers and expressions of gratitude are simple. One, signed by "Ingrid," asks the Mother of God to help her father who is suffering from cancer.

Her supplication says that he is too young to die and that her mother and the family firm need him. But if he has to die then the Virgin Mary is asked to ensure that he finds his way to Her Son.

In another a student expresses his thanks to the Virgin Mary that he has passed his examinations, and a widow, in shaky writing, asks to be cured from a serious illness.

In view of the unqestioned trust these requests show it seems superfluous to ask sceptically if these acts of faith have anything to do with the modern world.

Ingrid, the daughter of the man dying of cancer, made no secret of her child-like relationship to the Mother of God.

She said: "It is just as it is at home. A mother cannot refuse her children's requests. She gives us what we ask for, or something better."

She knelt at the worn, wooden rail in front of the statute of the Virgin Mary and silently prayed.

To the left and right of her there were hundreds of thick candles in rows. Some of them were burning. They are votive offerings from pilgrims, who have visited Kevelaer for the past 300 years.

Members of a student fraternity filed into the Candle Chapel wearing their fraternity uniform.

They had made their ten-kilometre pilgrimage on foot. They prayed for the Pope who is scheduled to visit Kevelaer next year.

The priest began his mass for the students with these words: "People who cease talking about the Virgin Mary today, will tomorrow stop declaring that Jesus Christ became Man."

In a short address to them he recalled that Mary was "unblemished when she conceived," the only person in creation not tainted with Original Sin.

"Only God has a right to adoration," he said in conclusion. "But every woman should be venerated, woman whom Christ gave to us as mother from the Cross."

After the mass several of the students went to the sanctuary to the Virgin, the Gnadenkapelle (Chapel of Mercy), just a few steps away from the Candle Chapel.

The small church, standing in the middle of the town, is surrounded by lime-trees. All the town's main streets meet at this point.

In 1642 a pious merchant named Hendrick Busmann erected there a small votive picture. He chose a famous representation of Our Lady of Luxembourg, that had been honoured as a "comforter of the sorrowful" since an outbreak of the plague in 1626. The small group of students began to say the rosary. A law student in his fifth semester passed the beads of his rosary through his fingers, gazing continuously on the inconspicuous, small holy picture.

The picture, placed behind bullet-proof glass, was covered with finery.

There was perfect quiet in the hexagonal chapel. The only thing that could be heard was the flickering candles.

Above the oval window there is the Annunciation, the Birth of Jesus and the Coronation of the Virgin Mary. The door is rich with wood-cuttings. A church guide says: "The best for the best."

Worlds separate this place of prayer from the hubbub of the pilgrimage with its vulgar souvenirs and eating stalls.

Apart from the students there were only three old women in the chapel. They were also praying, saying the rosary, "Hail, Mary." Fifty times, the same prayer fifty times.

Asked if that was not monotonous the law student said: "Don't lovers say the same thing over and over again?"

The rosary is for him a meditation. He said: "While I repeat the same prayer over and over again I can consider individual scenes from the life of Jesus and his Mother. Each time it is a small step to being better. In no way is it boring." A group of about 50 assembled in front of the Chapel of Mercy for the evening prayers to the Virgin Mary. Because it would soon be dark each of them lit a candle with a red shade against the wind. Some one began to recite the Litany, appealing to the Mother of God. The faithful answered with "Pray for us." Then they began to sing hymns. Pilgrims who, until then, had remained silent now joined in the singing.

Waiting to receive at Kevelaer.

(Photo: Verkehrsverein Kevelaer)

A man in his forties tried to join in at various passages, but he had to stop from time to time because he did not know all the words.

Excusing himself he said later over a glass of beer: "I could only remember a few of the verses from my childhood. I haven't sung it since then."

He introduced himself as the chairman of a large industrial company. "Now you want to ask why an executive goes to Kevelaer? The answer is: I don't know myself."

He had a sudden fancy to make a pilgrimage. He said: "Perhaps I wanted to bring back childhood memories."

He made his journey from Geldern, ten kilometres away, on foot. He could not say the rosary.

Pointing to a picture of the Virgin Mary in the pub he said: "She gave me great joy on my tough march here."

He did not give much importance to reports of miracles that have taken place at pilgrim shrines.

He added: "But one has taken place here today in Kevelaer. I've made my first confession after 22 years."

Christian Geyer

(Die Welt, Bonn, 1 November 1986)

Pulling people back from brink of suicide

Thirty years ago Chad Varah, a Church of England minister, was so distressed by a young girl's suicide he decided to set up a telephone service for potential suicides.

The service became a model for SOS services of this sort all over the world.

West Germany was one of the first countries to introduce the concept of anonymous telephone calls for people in distress.

The first went into operation in Berlin on 6 October 1956, started by a doctor and a priest, helped by a handful of volunteers.

There are today 75 telephone aid centres of this type in the Federal Republic.

More than 5,000 volunteers of all ages and from every profesion imaginable, led by a priest, provide a 24-hour service. They undergo months of training for the job.

Last year the Samaritans in West Germany received more than 600,000 calls. They do not ask the caller's name, religion or profession. They only have an ear to listen to troubles and distress.

They themselves remain anonymous. There is no name on the door of the office from which they operate, and the address is not listed in the telephone book, to protect volunteers from unmannerly visits.

All over the world millions of people in distress contact organisations similar to the one in operation in this country.

The Reverend Chad Varah could not have guessed at the eventual popularity of his idea when he placed an advertisement in a London newspaper saying: "Before you commit suicide call me on Mansion 9000."

He had his idea after brooding on the girl's suicide. He felt he could have prevented it if he had been able to talk to her.

He said later: "I never dreamt that I would be founding an organisation that would come from that, to say nothing of the movement that has spread all over the world."

Chad Varah called his organisation "The Samaritans." Similar organisations in America and Australia are called "Life Line," in France "SOS Amitié" and in Italy "Voce Amica."

The network of 450 establishments all over the world is not always operated by the two major Churches, Catholic and Evangelical, as they are in the Federal Republic.

The West German ecumenical Samaritans have the most members, said Franz Herzog, the head of the Samaritans in Bonn.

Women are particularly well represented among the Samaritans of West Germany. Antje Reichel has worked with the Evangelical Samaritans in Hamburg for the past five years.

She is a trained book-keeper and wanted to do something for others in trouble, the motive for so many members of the Samaritan movement.

The telephone in Hamburg, like elsewhere, is never quiet. The office handles 60 calls a day.

All the helpers are sworn to secrecy in their work, but they can sketch out some examples of what they come across.

A married woman had found out that her husband was going with another woman, upsetting her domestic bliss. There was also money problems.

Then there was the problem of the father who was all alone with two children after his wife had walked out on him. He had then also lost his job.

Although the service was originally set up for potential suicides, they now account for only five per cent of the calls.

The main reasons people have for calling the Samaritans are marriage or partner problems, depression, difficulties with children or old people's loneliness.

Everywhere in the country the telephone number is the same, 11101 for the Evangical Church and 11102 for the Catholic Church.

Antje Reichel said: "Religious problems come into it very little."

Pastor Gunter Marwege has had the same experience. He worked with the Samaritans whilst at university in Munich, and he is now a volunteer in Hamburg.

He said: "The aid Samaritans can give is limited to talking."

But that can often help a great deal, but sometimes it does little to solve a muddled situation.

He concluded by saying: "We are not miracle-workers."

Regina Murgothldpa

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